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HELL OR HIGH WATER

California residents survey damage as historic floods recede

John Buergler of the Sonoma County Sheriff's marine unit patrols Neely Road in Guerneville, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019 as the Russian River recedes, but continues to flood.

Associated Press

By **TERENCE CHEA** and **JANIE HAR GUERNEVILLE, Calif. (AP)**

— Tom Orr began moving lyrics and scripts, clothes and photo albums from his apartment as authorities ordered evacuations along a rising Northern California river threatening to hit a historic crest.

But the actor and writer couldn't move costumes, computers and performance videos. So he shifted those to his loft bed about

10 feet up and prayed they would survive. On Wednesday, television news footage showed muddy brown water nearly swallowing his ground-level unit and much of the tiny town of Guerneville, part of Sonoma County's famed wine country and a popular tourist destination.

Residents awoke Thursday to sunshine and began assessing the damage while the water started receding. Orr, 48, was among those

still unable to get into his house after the rain-swollen Russian River reached nearly 46 feet (14 meters) Wednesday night, its highest level in more than 20 years.

"I feel so helpless just sitting here and waiting before I can go back and start salvaging whatever I can," Orr said in text messages to The Associated Press before preparing for a friend to take him by canoe to work at the Main Street Bis-

tro, one of the few places in town that did not flood. Sonoma County officials said they expected the communities of Guerneville and Monte Rio to be accessible by car Friday. The two-day storm rendered the towns reachable only by boat on Wednesday.

One National Weather Service station measured 20 inches of rain in 48 hours. While no flood-related serious injuries or deaths were reported in Sonoma Coun-

ty, a man about 150 miles (330 kilometers) to the north in Ferndale died trying to reach three children.

The unidentified man was trying to walk from a barn to his home through up to 5 feet (1.5 meters) of water Wednesday evening when he was carried away by the fast-moving current, said Samantha Karges, a spokeswoman with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office.

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In this Dec. 11, 2018 file photo, Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler at EPA headquarters in Washington.

Associated Press

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Thursday confirmed former coal industry lobbyist Andrew Wheeler

to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, despite concerns by Democrats and one Republican about regulatory rollbacks he's made in eight months as

Senate confirms acting EPA chief for permanent role

the agency's acting chief. Senators voted 52-47 to confirm Wheeler, who was nominated by President Donald Trump after former administrator Scott Pruitt resigned last year amid a series of ethics allegations. Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., chairman of the Senate environment committee, called Wheeler "uniquely qualified" to lead EPA and said that under Wheeler the agency is putting forward proposals that "both protect our environment and allow the country's economy to flourish." But Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., said Wheeler was failing to protect the environment and human health and was "nominated to unravel and undo the environmental protections that are now in place." Wheeler, 54, was confirmed as deputy administrator last April and became acting chief in July after Pruitt resigned. He worked at the EPA early in his career and was a top aide at the Senate Environment Committee before becoming a lobbyist a decade ago. Maine Sen. Susan Collins was the sole Republican to oppose Wheeler. She said in a statement that, unlike Pruitt, Wheeler "understands the mission of the EPA and acts in accordance with ethical standards. However, the policies he has supported as acting administrator are not in the best interest of our environment and

public health, particularly given the threat of climate change to our nation." Collins said she was particularly concerned that EPA has proposed to roll back rules regulating mercury emissions from power plants and moved to replace the Clean Power Plan, former President Barack Obama's signature proposal to combat climate change. "There is no doubt that the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change pose a significant threat" to Maine and the nation, Collins said, adding that pollution from coal-fired power plants threatens Maine's natural resources, "from our working forests, fishing and agricultural industries, to tourism and recreation." Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., who supported Wheeler's nomination as deputy last year, voted against his promotion. As acting administrator, Wheeler "hasn't demonstrated a desire or a will to make any meaningful progress on clean drinking water standards and has rolled back clean air standards that are directly impacting West Virginians," Manchin said. He cited the agency's failure to limit the amount of highly toxic chemicals contaminating drinking water in West Virginia and around the country. The EPA has announced plans to place legal limits on the chemicals but has not yet done so. The perflu-

oroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known collectively as PFAS, have been linked to health threats ranging from cancer to decreased fertility. "I believe immediate action must be taken, and these efforts lack a sense of urgency," Manchin said. Like Collins, Manchin also said he was concerned at EPA's attempt to undo rules designed to limit emissions of mercury, which can damage the brains of infants and young children. Environmental groups, meanwhile, slammed Wheeler, saying that while his behavior is "less cartoonish" than Pruitt, he supports the same policies. "Wheeler wants to turn the EPA into a wish-granting service for polluters, no matter the cost to public health or wildlife. But it's only a matter of time before his dirty dealings land him in the same trash heap as his predecessor," said Emily Knobbe, EPA policy specialist at the Center for Biological Diversity, an Arizona-based environmental group. America's Power, a trade group that represents coal producers, applauded Wheeler's confirmation. "During his time as acting administrator, Andrew Wheeler has been seen as a thoughtful leader who understands the need for sensible environmental policies," said Michelle Bloodworth, the group's president and CEO. □

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Trump accepts Kim 'word' he had no role in Warmbier death

By CATHERINE LUCEY and
DAN SEWELL**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump said Thursday he takes North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "at his word" that Kim was unaware of the alleged mistreatment of an American college student who died after being imprisoned there.

Kim "tells me he didn't know about it, and I will take him at his word," Trump said in Vietnam.

The president's comments about the Otto Warmbier case called to mind other times when he chose to believe autocrats over his own intelligence agencies, including siding with the Saudi royal family regarding the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and supporting Russia's Vladimir Putin's denials that he interfered with the 2016 election.

He drew a rebuke from House Speaker Nancy Pe-

losi, D-Calif. "There is something wrong with Putin, Kim Jong Un — in my view, thugs — that the president chooses to believe," Pelosi said.

A lawyer for the Warmbier family declined to comment.

But some prominent Republicans spoke out to condemn North Korea and express support for the Warmbier family.

"We must remember Otto, and we should never let North Korea off the hook for what they did to him," Ohio's Republican senator, Rob Portman, said in a statement.

Portman has been in contact with Warmbier's family since the suburban Cincinnati youth was imprisoned in early 2016 for allegedly stealing a propaganda poster. Warmbier died in June 2017 after being returned home in a vegetative state. His parents say he was tortured.



In this March 16, 2016, file photo, American student Otto Warmbier, center, is escorted at the Supreme Court in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Associated Press

Trump's former U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley said on Twitter that "Americans know the cruelty that was placed on Otto Warmbier by the North Korean regime. Our hearts are with the Warmbier family for their strength and courage. We will never forget Otto." Warmbier, a University of

Virginia student had been visiting North Korea with a tour group when he was detained. A court there sentenced him to 15 years of hard labor for the alleged offense.

Last year, a U.S. judge ordered North Korea to pay more than \$500 million in a wrongful death suit filed by

Warmbier's parents.

U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell in Washington harshly condemned North Korea for "barbaric mistreatment" of Warmbier, awarding punitive damages and payments covering medical expenses, economic loss and pain and suffering to parents Fred and Cindy Warmbier. Trump has claimed credit for freeing American prisoners abroad and had used Warmbier's death as a rallying cry against the North Korea's human rights abuses before softening his rhetoric ahead of talks with Kim. □

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Continued from Front

Two adults and a child tried to rescue the man, but their tractor stalled in the water. Deputies in a boat then rescued them and the three children from the home, Karges said.

The missing man's body was found Thursday morning. He was the father of a 12-year-old trapped in the home with two children under 4, Karges said. She was not sure if all three children were related. The low-lying rural area about 215 miles (473 kilometers) north of San Francisco is home to many dairy farms and flooded when the Eel River went over its banks.

In Sonoma County, Guerneville and Monte Rio remained cut off by floodwaters that swamped the communities. Water was chest-high in some places, several feet in others.

In downtown Guerneville, some residents stood on the roofs of their flooded two-story houses, watching neighbors and others paddling kayaks, canoes and rowboats down watery streets. Oversized National Guard truck occasionally slogged by.

Drone video showed a sign reading "Monte Rio awaits your return" hanging over muddy water that hid any trace of the road beneath. In Sonoma County, Sheriff Mark Essick said Thursday that three women had to be rescued. Two were on a boat without paddles, and one was rescued from a tree after driving her car into floodwaters, he said.

About 2,000 homes, businesses and other structures were flooded by water up to 8 feet (2.4 meters) deep. About 3,500 people were under evacuation orders. In addition, two wastewa-



People kayak down Mill Street in flood waters from the overflowing Russian River in the town of Guerneville, Calif., on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

ter treatment plants were not working, leading to concerns about sewage spills, said Briana Khan, a

Sonoma County spokeswoman.

Guerneville, a town of 4,500, is a former logging community now popular with day-tripping tourists, including gays and lesbians who flock to the town's resorts and fine restaurants. Throughout the storm, residents with canoes and kayaks gave rides to neighbors and documented the rising water with photos posted to social media.

Locals are accustomed to the Russian River flooding in rainy weather, but not like this.

In Monte Rio, 28-year-old Michael Super watched helplessly as water seeped in from five different entry points, including doors and walls. He grabbed the cat and dog and found higher ground.

He said the landlord has insurance, but the silt and dirty water are a mess to clean.

"A lot of the furniture will have to go into the dump," he said. "We've seen oil and gas sheens and alcohol bottles so the water is unsafe."

Orr moved to Guernev-


ille about five years ago, driven out of San Francisco by rising costs. He helped create a dinner theater show at a local restaurant. It didn't work out, but he stayed on, unable to move back to the city.

He started moving items out of his house Tuesday afternoon, humming a version of "My Funny Valentine" called "My Floody Valentine" to keep up his spirits. By 10 p.m., the water was too high for him to get inside.

He doesn't have insurance, but the items he hopes survive are not easily replaceable: computers, floppy disks and videotapes containing decades of essays, performances, ideas for musicals and "sassy satirical parodies of Broadway show tunes."

He's a cabaret performer accustomed to cracking jokes to keep the grief at bay.

"This is the most serious thing that's ever happened to me, but I don't know the punchline," he said. "For now, I'm trying to do my best to keep everybody laughing." □



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ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****Study: U.S. pedestrian deaths hit highest number since 1990**

By TOM KRISHER

DETROIT (AP) — The number of pedestrians killed on U.S. roads last year was the highest in 28 years, an increase due in part to driver and walker distraction, alcohol and drug impairment and more SUVs on the road, a safety organization report says.

Using data reported by states for the first half of 2018, the Governors Highway Safety Association estimates that 6,227 pedestrians were killed last year. That's up 4 percent from 2017 and 35 percent — or more than 1,500 additional deaths — from 2008.

The association says more people are walking to work and they're more distracted by smartphones. America's massive switch from cars to SUVs and light trucks caused more deaths because the taller SUVs tend to hit pedestrians in the head and upper torso, causing more severe injuries, the report said.

"At the same impact speed, a pedestrian is much more likely to die in an SUV crash than in a car crash," said Richard Retting, a consul-

tant and former top traffic safety official with the city of New York who authored the report. "Even at 20 or 25 miles per hour, being hit by an SUV, the chance of fatal injuries increases significantly."

The number of pedestrian deaths involving SUVs rose 50 percent from 2013 to 2017, while passenger-car-related deaths increased by 30 percent, the study found. The number of walkers killed by passenger cars was still higher in 2017 at 2,279, but SUVs accounted for 1,097 deaths.

Pedestrian deaths had been declining for decades until 2009, when smartphone sales and data use began to spike, Retting said. While Retting said the correlation between the two needs to be studied more, phone use is one of the only variables that could cause the increase in deaths. "Cellphone use is one of the few metrics I can find that shows a consistent change, a large scale change, year after year," Retting said.

In about half the fatal crashes, either the driver



In this Dec. 26, 2018 file photo, pedestrians are silhouetted against wet pavement as they walk in the Country Club Plaza shopping district in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

or the pedestrian was impaired by alcohol, with blood alcohol levels of 0.08 grams per deciliter, the study found.

The report also says most deaths happen on local roads at night and away from intersections, and it called for safer road crossings. Night pedestrian fatalities increased by 45 percent from 2008 to 2017, while daytime deaths rose a much smaller 11 percent. Retting said municipal gov-

ernments should evaluate pedestrian crossing patterns and consider installing crosswalks and lights even if there's no intersection.

The increase in pedestrian deaths from 2008 to 2017 came as overall traffic deaths fell 6 percent, the report said. It also called for law enforcement and safety education campaigns to make sure drivers and walkers can safely coexist, as well as for road safety audits. It said that 23 states

saw declines in pedestrian deaths during the first half of last year, with six states reporting double-digit drops. Retting said he expects pedestrian deaths to fall as more SUVs and cars are equipped with automatic emergency braking and pedestrian detection systems. Most automakers in the U.S. have pledged to make automatic braking standard across their lineups by September of 2022. □

Police pledge 'thorough investigation' of patient deaths

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Law enforcement authorities on Thursday pledged a "thorough investigation" into allegations against an intensive-care doctor accused of ordering painkiller overdoses for dozens of Ohio hospital patients.

In addition, the state attorney general's office confirmed it is conducting a Medicaid fraud investigation related to the doctor. At issue are accusations

against William Husel, a doctor fired by the Columbus-area Mount Carmel Health System in December. The hospital found he ordered potentially fatal doses for 29 patients and doses for six more patients that were excessive but not likely what caused their deaths.

Police and prosecutors said Thursday they are investigating the 29 deaths, with dozens of interviews to be conducted.

Those include doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and pa-



tients' families. Investigators and then
In this Jan. 15, 2019 file photo, the main entrance to Mount Carmel West Hospital is shown in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

medical experts must also obtain and review thousands of pages of medical reports, said Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien and Tim Becker, the acting Columbus police chief.

Authorities "intend to conduct a thorough investigation of complex ethical, medical, and legal issues," the two said in a joint statement.

Husel voluntarily surrendered his passport to authorities during the investigation, according to Thursday's statement. □

Oregon OKs 1st statewide U.S. mandatory rent control law

By SARAH ZIMMERMAN
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed the nation's first statewide mandatory rent control measure on Thursday, giving a victory to housing advocates who say spiraling rent costs in the economically booming state have fueled widespread homelessness and housing insecurity.

Brown, a Democrat, said the legislation will provide "some immediate relief to Oregonians struggling to keep up with rising rents and a tight rental market." Landlords are now limited to increases that cannot exceed 7 percent plus inflation, and can only raise rents annually.

The law prohibits them serving no-cause evictions after a tenant's first year of occupancy, a provision designed to protect those who are living paycheck to paycheck and who affordable housing advocates say are often most vulnerable to sudden rent hikes and abrupt lease terminations.

New York has a statewide rent control law, but cities can choose whether to participate. California restricts the ability of cities to impose rent control. Last November, voters defeat-



Oregon Gov. Kate Brown holds up a signed rent control bill on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019, at the State Capitol in Salem, Ore.

Associated Press

ed a ballot initiative that would have overturned that law.

The Oregon law takes effect immediately. Democrats who control the Legislature say the state's housing crisis justified passing the bill as an emergency measure.

In hearings for the bill passed, tenants testified that they have struggled to keep up with skyrocketing rents, with many said they've been forced from their homes. Kori Sparks, a resident of the fast-growing city of Bend, said she relies

on disability and has "to deal with the stress of losing an accessible home on short notice."

She said rent control will protect vulnerable people from "a predatory system where profit comes before people and denies them of a basic human right."

Builders in Oregon have not been able to construct enough houses and apartments to meet the demands of the thousands of people moving to the state for jobs and in some cases, for a lower cost of living. Many people move to the

state from California.

A state report estimated that a renter would need to work 77 hours a week at minimum wage to afford a 2-bedroom apartment. Three renters in Oregon are paying more than 50 percent of their income on rent, far higher than the Congressional-set definition of housing affordability, which suggests setting aside 30 percent toward rent. In the Portland metropolitan area, rent began to plateau in 2017 after four consecutive years of rent hikes averaging 5 percent

or more. The average rental unit costs about \$1,400 a month, according to data released by the city.

Oregon is also suffering from a lack of affordable housing and has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the country.

Landlords and developers argued that rent control would make the housing crisis worse, saying investors will now be less willing to build or maintain properties.

"History has shown that rent control exacerbates shortages, makes it harder for apartment owners to make upgrades and disproportionately benefits higher-income households," said Doug Bibby, president of the National Multifamily Housing Council, a national association representing apartment building owners. The governor acknowledged that rent control alone isn't enough, and that the state needs an "all hands on deck" solution. Brown has proposed a \$400 million investment in affordable housing solutions in her two-year budget proposal. "It will take much more to ensure that every Oregonian, in communities large and small, has access to housing choices that allow them and their families to thrive," she said. □



This Jan. 9, 2013 file photo shows Edward Nixon, brother of former President Richard Nixon, appearing at the Richard Nixon Centennial Birthday Celebration in Washington.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Edward Nixon, the youngest brother of former President Richard Nixon who staunchly defended his sibling's White House legacy, died Wednesday. He was 88.

The Richard Nixon Foundation announced that Nixon died at a nursing facility in Bothell, Washington, a Seattle suburb.

A geologist and Navy veteran, Nixon worked on his brother's 1968 and 1972

Edward Nixon, brother of former President Richard Nixon, dies at 88

presidential campaigns and served as co-chairman of the Nixon re-election committee in 1972.

In a statement released by the foundation, Richard Nixon's daughters, Tricia Nixon Cox and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, called their uncle "our family's rock" since the former president died in 1994.

They also called him a "source of strength."

Richard Nixon was 17 years old and getting ready to start college when his youngest brother was born on May 3, 1930, in Whittier, California. Edward Calvert Nixon was the fifth son of

Frank and Hannah Nixon and had been the last surviving brother of the former president.

Because of their age difference, Edward Nixon described his older brother as a mentor and assistant father, the foundation said.

In 1994, Edward Nixon told reporters the former president was frequently misrepresented, with the focus on the Watergate scandal that drove him from office. He said in his extensive travels around the globe he was always asked by residents in other countries, "What's the matter with the people in the United

States? Why did they put him out of office?"

"What really irks ... his friends are the repeated references to the things that didn't go well in his life and to the 'enigma of the man,'" Nixon said at the time. "He's just a brother to me."

Edward Nixon was an original board member of the private Richard Nixon Foundation, which founded and operated the presidential library until the National Archives took control in 2007. A \$500,000 makeover followed, which scholars said provided a more balanced and accurate account of the Watergate story. □

Neo-Nazi group's leader is black man who vows to dissolve it

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

One of the nation's largest neo-Nazi groups appears to have an unlikely new leader: a black activist who has vowed to dismantle it. Court documents filed Thursday suggest James Hart Stern wants to use his new position as director and president of the National Socialist Movement

group leaders have been at odds with rank-and-file members over its direction. Heimbach said some members "essentially want it to remain a politically impotent white supremacist gang" and resisted ideological changes advocated by Schoep.

Heimbach said Schoep's apparent departure and Stern's installation as its

edging the NSM denouncing being a white supremacist group."

"I have personally targeted eradicating the (Ku Klux Klan) and the National Socialist Movement, which are two organizations here in this country which have all too long been given privileges they don't deserve," Stern said in a video posted on his site.

On Wednesday, lawyers for the plaintiffs suing white supremacist groups and movement leaders over the Charlottesville violence asked the court to sanction Schoep. They say he has ignored his obligations to turn over documents and give them access to his electronic devices and social media accounts. They also claim Schoep recently

fired his attorney as a stalling tactic.

A federal magistrate judge in Charlottesville ruled last Friday that Stern cannot represent the NSM in the case because he does not appear to be a licensed attorney. That did not deter Stern from filing Thursday's request for summary judgment against his own group. □



In this Thursday, June 14, 2012 file photo, James Stern of Jackson, Miss., at a news conference in Jackson, Miss.

Associated Press

to undermine the Detroit-based group's defense against a lawsuit.

The NSM is one of several extremist groups sued over bloodshed at a 2017 white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Stern's filing asks a federal court in Virginia to issue a judgment against the group before one of the lawsuits goes to trial.

Stern replaced Jeff Schoep as the group's leader in January, according to Michigan corporate records. But those records and court documents say nothing about how or why Stern got the position. His feat invited comparisons to the recent Spike Lee movie "BlackKkKlansman" in which a black police officer infiltrates a branch of the Ku Klux Klan.

Neither Stern, who lives in Moreno Valley, California, nor Schoep responded Thursday to emails and calls seeking comment.

Matthew Heimbach, a leading white nationalist figure who briefly served as the NSM's community outreach director last year, said Schoep and other

leader probably spell the end of the group in its current form. Schoep was 21 when he took control of the group in 1994 and renamed it the National Socialist Movement, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"I think it's kind of a sad obit for one of the longest-running white nationalist organizations," said Heimbach, who estimates it had about 40 active, dues-paying members last year.

The group has drawn much larger crowds at rallies.

NSM members used to attend rallies and protests in full Nazi uniforms, including at a march in Toledo, Ohio, that sparked a riot in 2005. More recently, Schoep tried to rebrand the group and appeal to a new generation of racists and anti-Semites by getting rid of such overt displays of Nazi symbols.

It appeared that Stern had been trying for at least two years to disrupt the group. A message posted on his website said he would be meeting with Schoep in February 2017 "to sign a proclamation acknowl-

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Irish drivers warned over 'no-deal' Brexit as EU and UK talk

LONDON (AP) — Ireland's deputy prime minister said Thursday that the European Union wants to work with Britain to ensure there is a Brexit deal, as Irish drivers were warned they will need new paperwork to cross the currently invisible border to Northern Ireland if the U.K. leaves the bloc without an agreement.

The Motor Insurers' Bureau of Ireland said it has supplied insurance companies with 1 million forms so customers can apply for the internationally recognized "Green Card" proof of insurance documents.

British drivers traveling to Ireland or other EU countries will also need the paperwork — just one of a host of new rules and hurdles citizens will need to negotiate if Britain crashes out of the bloc without a framework over its departure.

Currently, auto insurance in any EU country covers the whole bloc. If Britain leaves with a deal, there will be no change until at least the end of 2020.

Britain is due to leave the 28-nation bloc on March 29, but lawmakers have rejected the divorce deal Prime Minister Theresa May negotiated with the EU,



Remain supporters shelter from the wind and rain across the street from parliament in London, Thursday Feb. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

raising the prospect of a chaotic "no deal" Brexit.

Governments in EU countries, as well as in Britain, have warned citizens and businesses to prepare for potential disruption to trade and travel as tariffs, customs checks and other barriers are erected between Britain and its big-

gest trading partner.

But U.K. authorities acknowledged this week that neither individuals nor businesses are ready for a "no-deal" departure, and "the short time remaining before 29 March 2019 does not allow government to unilaterally mitigate the effects of no deal."

British lawmakers rejected May's deal with the EU last month, largely over a provision to guarantee there are no customs posts or other barriers along the Irish border. The mechanism, known as the backstop, is a safeguard that would keep the U.K. in a customs union with the EU to remove the

need for checks until a permanent new trading relationship is in place.

May wants to revise the deal to reassure opponents that the backstop would only apply temporarily. But EU leaders insist that the legally binding Brexit withdrawal agreement can't be reopened.

Irish Deputy Prime Minister Simon Coveney said the EU "wants to work with the U.K. to try to give the reassurance and clarification" it needs on the border issue. But he said the EU had made it "very clear" that the text of the withdrawal agreement will not be reopened.

"What they'll be providing will be an addition, but in a way that doesn't undermine the meaning of that text, which I think is very important from an Irish perspective," Coveney said in Dublin.

May says U.K. lawmakers will get to vote again on her deal — including any amendments she secures — by March 12. If it is rejected, Parliament will then vote on whether to leave the EU without an agreement or seek to postpone Brexit by up to three months. □

Fabien Clain, jihadists' voice in 2015 Paris attacks, killed



In this Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016, file picture, a screen grab from the Interpol wanted persons web page shows a portrait for Fabien Clain.

Associated Press

By **LORI HINNANT**
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Fabien Clain was the voice of Islamic State for his home country

of France — and above all for its capital city, terrorized by squads of extremists who blew themselves up outside the national stadium, and opened fire on concert-goers and cafe diners in November 2015.

In a recording released the day after those Paris attacks, it was Clain who announced to France that the Islamic State group was responsible for the worst terrorist violence in France's modern history.

Clain, one of Europe's most-wanted members of the extremist group, was killed in a strike by the U.S.-led military coalition in Syria, the coalition announced Thursday in a tweet. Coalition spokesman Col. Sean Ryan said the strike on Baghouz occurred Feb. 20, but

released no further information on how Clain was killed or how his remains were identified.

French authorities did not comment on the coalition announcement, but had said last week they were verifying reports of Clain's death.

Born in the southern French city of Toulouse in 1978 and raised in Normandy, Clain converted from Catholicism in his early 20s, persuading his future wife, his younger brother Jean-Michel, his half-sister and his mother to join him in his new religion.

In 2009, Fabien Clain was sentenced to five years in prison for his role in a network that sent recruits to fight with jihadis in Iraq. Five years later, he is believed

to have left for Syria with his extended family to join the Islamic State group.

But first, he had an errand to run. As France was convulsed by the January 2015 attacks against the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket, a clerk at a hi-fi store in the south of France said Fabien Clain came in to buy more than 3,500 euros worth of studio recording equipment. According to the French newspaper Journal du Dimanche, he requested that it be easily "transportable." He is believed to have taken off for Syria soon afterward.

All trace of his family was lost until Nov. 14, 2015, the day after the deadly attacks in Paris, when Clain's voice floated across French

media from Syria.

"Eight brothers with explosive belts and assault rifles targeted places chosen with the greatest care ahead of time in the heart of the French capital," he said. His brother Jean-Michel's voice sang an Islamic nasheed in the background. Fabien Clain was now "the voice of Daesh" for the country he, his brother and their families left behind. Interpol has kept him on its most-wanted list ever since. Most recently, on Dec. 28, Clain's voice was heard again, in a diatribe addressed to France's yellow vest protesters, calling on them to turn against their government, "which spends your money indiscriminately." Especially, he noted, on wars. □

UN envoy wants action on Syria's missing, new constitution

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The new U.N. special envoy for Syria said Thursday his goals in the period ahead are to achieve "concrete action" on detained and missing people and the convening of a committee to draft a new constitution for the war-torn country "as soon as possible."

Geir Pedersen said he also wants to begin a sustained dialogue with the government and opposition "on building trust and confidence," to engage a wide-range of Syrians, and to help the international community deepen its dialogue on achieving a political settlement of the eight-year conflict.

Pedersen's first briefing to the U.N. Security Council indicated a much broader approach to trying to end the war and restore peace to Syria than his predecessor, Staffan de Mistura, who spent his last year trying unsuccessfully to form a constitutional committee.

The Security Council has been deeply divided over



The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen greets people before the start of a Security Council meeting at U.N. headquarters, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

Syria, with the U.S. and its allies backing the opposition and Russia and China supporting Syrian President Bashar Assad's government along with Iran and other countries. The result has been near-paralysis of the U.N.'s most powerful body. Pedersen focused on a resolution the council did succeed in adopting unanimously in December 2015

endorsing a road map for peace. It contains "all the elements for a political solution," he said, and calls for "a truly Syrian-led and owned political process" which he stressed is key if any peace deal is to be sustained.

The new envoy noted that key international players "express emphatic support for a political settlement

for Syria" and agree on the need to counter terrorist groups.

"They share an appreciation of the realities of 2019 and that real diplomacy is needed to address them," Pedersen said, noting that currently "different formats make different contributions."

In the early years of the Syrian conflict there was a

large international contact group, but in recent years Russia, Iran and Turkey — the guarantor states in the so-called "Astana process" aimed at ending the violence in Syria — have become the key international diplomatic players in Syria. Pedersen said he believes "there are real possibilities for strengthening international support," and a need to be "creative."

"If we are to see how issues can be unblocked and how to help the parties move in a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned process, a common forum where key states engage seriously on those issues may be needed," he said without elaborating.

As he deepens discussions with the government and opposition, Pedersen said, "I sense a wide acceptance of the notion that convening a credible, balanced, inclusive and viable Syrian-led and owned constitutional committee, under U.N. auspices in Geneva, can be important to revitalize the political process." □

Thousands of Belgian youths protest for more climate action

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg has led thousands of Belgian students in a climate change march — the second she's led in as many weeks to draw more attention to the topic.

It was the eighth week in a row that school kids have skipped school to protest. Numbers have come down from the tens of thousands recorded earlier — there

was one march of about 3,000 in Antwerp Thursday, and several thousand in Brussels and provincial centers.

Thunberg has become her generation's voice on climate change after inspiring students around the world to go on strike to express their anger and angst over global warming. Student leaders are planning another march next week. □



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Israel's Netanyahu jolted by corruption recommendations

By ARON HELLER
JOSEF FEDERMAN

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's attorney general on Thursday recommended criminal charges against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a series of corruption cases, shaking up an already tumultuous election campaign and threatening to end the Israeli leader's decades-long political career.

The potential charges stretch across an array of embarrassing scandals that have painted Netanyahu as a hedonistic, and sometimes petty, leader with a taste for expensive gifts and an obsession over his public image. They include allegations he accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars of champagne and cigars from billionaire friends, and allegedly used his influence to help a wealthy telecom magnate in exchange for favorable coverage on a popular news site.

While a final decision on charges is still months away, Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit's recommendations threatened to hurt Netanyahu's standing in the heat of a tight re-election battle. Netanyahu quickly faced calls to immediately step aside while he deals with the distraction of trying to clear his name.

Appearing on national TV late Thursday, Netanyahu dismissed the allegations as an "unprecedented witch hunt" by political opponents intent on seeing him lose the April 9 election.

He called the timing of the recommendations "outrageous" and accused prosecutors of caving in to pressure from "the left." Appearing emotional at times, he called the case a "blood libel," said he would debunk all charges and vowed to remain prime minister for many years.

"This house of cards will collapse," he said as he addressed voters. "Don't let this witch hunt affect you." Mandelblit announced his recommendations after more than two years of intense investigations and deliberations by police, le-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gestures as he delivers a statement at the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

gal experts and financial regulators.

"The attorney general has reached his decision after thoroughly examining the evidence collected during the investigations," his statement said.

Netanyahu was not formally charged. Under Israeli law, he is entitled to defend himself at a hearing before charges are officially filed. That process is expected to take many months and be completed long after the election.

Tomer Naor of the Movement for Quality Government, a watchdog group, said the hearing process could take about a year. While charges are not guaranteed, he said most of the cases, particularly the bribery case, appeared to be solid.

The recommendations nonetheless plunged Israel into uncharted legal waters, marking the first time in its history that a sitting prime minister is so close to facing criminal charges.

While Israeli prime ministers are not required by law to resign if charged, the prospect of a prime minister standing trial while simultaneously running the country could increase calls, even from his allies, to step down.

Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who spent time

in prison for corruption, stepped down a decade ago, months before police completed an investigation against him. As opposition leader, Netanyahu called on Olmert to step down before his indictment, saying he could not devote his full attention to governing.

Netanyahu has a solid base of hard-line, nationalist and religious voters who are likely to rally behind him. For now, Likud officials and his current coalition partners are also supporting him.

But polls have indicated that the upcoming vote, in which Netanyahu is seeking a fourth consecutive term, could be swayed by a small number of voters who abandon him in favor of a new centrist party headed by a popular former military chief, Benny Gantz.

Those voters could well be turned off by Netanyahu's lengthy rule and never-ending scandals.

Gantz, whose campaign has focused heavily on Netanyahu's character, late Thursday called on Netanyahu to resign immediately to deal with his legal problems.

He said Israel could not afford to have a "part-time prime minister."

"Let's imagine our reality when the prime minister needs to divide his time be-

tween court and dealing with the critical issues facing the state of Israel," he said.

Even before Thursday's announcement, Netanyahu's campaign had shown signs of trouble.

The alliance formed by Gantz and Yair Lapid, another centrist leader, has been welcomed by voters. Their "Blue and White" alliance enjoys a slight lead in opinion polls, making them the first credible threat to Netanyahu's decade-long rule.

Lapid also called on Netanyahu to step down.

"This is a sad day for the state of Israel," he said. "If Netanyahu loves the state of Israel as he always says he does, then he needs to do what's best for the country. He needs to resign, immediately."

Netanyahu has also come under fire, both in Israel and abroad, for forming a partnership with the political heirs of an ultranationalist party that was banned for its racist views toward Arabs.

The campaign now appears to be morphing into a referendum on Netanyahu as he seeks to become the longest-serving premier in Israeli history. Netanyahu has been prime minister since 2009 and served a previous term between

1996 and 1999.

Netanyahu had previously tried unsuccessfully to persuade Mandelblit to delay publication of his recommendations until after the election. And on Thursday, the Supreme Court rejected an attempt by the Likud Party to block publication.

The most serious allegations against Netanyahu involve his relationship with Shaul Elovitch, the controlling shareholder of Israel's telecom giant Bezeq.

Mandelblit recommended a bribery charge in the case based on evidence collected that confidants of Netanyahu promoted regulatory changes worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Bezeq.

In exchange, they believe Netanyahu used his connections with Elovitch to receive positive press coverage on Bezeq's popular news site Walla.

A related charge against Netanyahu's wife, Sara, was dropped.

Mandelblit's statement said there was a unanimous opinion among investigators that the relationship between Netanyahu and the Elovitches was "give or take," constituting bribery. Mandelblit also filed breach of trust charges in two other cases. One involves accepting gifts from billionaire friends, including over \$300,000 worth of champagne and cigars from Hollywood mogul Arnon Milchan.

The second revolves around alleged offers of advantageous legislation for a major newspaper in return for favorable coverage.

Mandelblit's office said the timing of Netanyahu's hearing would be set in the near future in coordination with the prime minister's lawyers. President Donald Trump, with whom Netanyahu has forged a close connection, offered the Israeli leader a boost earlier Thursday.

"I can say this: that he's done a great job as prime minister. He's tough, he's smart, he's strong," Trump said in Hanoi, where he was holding a summit with the leader of North Korea. □

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ARUBA WINE & DINE

Analysis: Even without a deal, Kim makes gains at summit

By ADAM SCHRECK
ERIC TALMADGE

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — As Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump took their seats across from each other at the negotiating table, the North Korean leader confidently told reporters he had a gut feeling the two would conclude their second summit with some sort of an agreement.

His gut proved wrong. A few hours later, he was speeding back to his Hanoi hotel, with no deal at all.

Gauging Kim's calculus in a negotiation is never easy, but the ending to his two days in Hanoi with Trump seemed like a major disaster. Kim came to Hanoi seeking sanctions relief, which Trump said he simply could not give. Before Thursday's sudden rupture, Kim even seemed to be on the verge of something that had eluded his father and grandfather — a declaration by the U.S. president of the end of the Korean War. That, too, was not to be. But Kim won't be going home empty-handed.

Kim may have overplayed his hand on sanctions, but he demonstrated he is capable of playing hardball — a capability Trump won't likely forget. He walks away with arguably more legitimacy than he had before, having convinced the most powerful man in the world to come to Asia a second time in less than nine months. Even in announcing that the talks had failed, Trump continued to praise Kim, stressing that the summit had been generally friendly and con-



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un answers a question from reporters during a meeting with President Donald Trump, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019, in Hanoi.

Associated Press

structive.

More importantly, Trump left the door open for negotiations to continue. Kim can work with that.

He has already made big strides toward undercutting support for sanctions in China and South Korea and can be expected to try to keep pushing them farther away from Washington's increasingly fragile policy of maximum pressure. Trump said Kim vowed to maintain his moratorium on missile launches and nuclear tests, so the lack of an agreement in Hanoi doesn't necessarily mean all sides must immediately revert to crisis mode.

Throughout the negotiation process so far, North Korea's state media have been extremely careful not to criticize Trump directly, focusing their ire instead

on lower-level officials like Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser John Bolton. It remains to be seen how the North's propaganda machine will spin the Hanoi outcome, but it would seem unlikely that their deference to Trump will change dramatically. Wittingly or not, Trump has repeatedly helped Kim establish himself as a leader on the world stage.

In his news conference, Trump seemed to almost argue one of Kim's talking points, suggesting that military exercises are expensive and not entirely necessary. The U.S. maintains nearly 30,000 troops in South Korea and their joint exercises with the South's military have long been a major source of concern in North Korea, which sees

the maneuvers as a dress rehearsal for war.

Trump hasn't called for their removal or for an end to the exercises, but he seems to be receptive to Kim's complaints.

Even as his talks with Washington have bogged down, Kim has largely erased the one-dimensional image of North Korean leaders since he emerged one year ago to hold a surprisingly successful and effective series of summits with the leaders of China and South Korea and with Trump.

In Hanoi, he was congenial and diplomatic in his interactions with the U.S. president. But he stood firm in his refusal to give up the country's crown jewels — its hard-won and expensive nuclear program — for an offer that the North would consider second-rate.

Not agreeing to a deal means North Korea can potentially carry out further work on its nuclear and conventional weapons programs, upping the stakes in future talks. And the lack of a fiery ending or angry words — at least in public — further boosts Kim's stature.

In Hanoi, as in Singapore, he showed a more human face than is presented in state-controlled media back home. He was at turns stern and smiling, confident but respectful in his dealings with his older counterpart.

He was even caught having an all-too-human smoke break while on his way by train to Vietnam, standing on a train platform and lighting his own cigarette with an old-school match before his doting sister delivered an ashtray to him.

While he relied on translators, he was heard speaking English when greeting Trump. He also took a real risk by engaging Western reporters' questions for the first time.

Unlike Trump, who immediately boarded Air Force One for Washington, Kim isn't rushing out of Hanoi after the summit. He is expected to stay until Saturday and will spend his remaining time sightseeing and meeting Vietnamese officials on what is being billed as a "friendly visit." That gives him a chance to present to both the world and his domestic audience the image that his meeting with Trump was just one part of a larger, multi-pronged trip. □

Mexican president urges reason in wage demands

By MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador tried Thursday to close the Pandora's box of wage demands he helped unleash when he doubled the minimum wage along Mexico's northern border. His pledge to end government manipulation of unions opened the flood gates to new, more combative labor movements in a nation where unions have long been quiet, and a wave of successful strikes erupted in January at 48 export-oriented "maquiladora" assembly plants in the border city of Matamoros.

The labor unrest has now expanded to non-export factories in the city, which is across from Brownsville, Texas. Workers at local industries like bottling plants are demanding the same kind of 20 percent pay increases and \$1,650 bonuses that the maquiladora employees successfully negotiated, and walkouts are threatening to spread across Mexico,



In this Jan. 9, 2019 file photo, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador gives a press conference in Mexico City.

Associated Press

Lopez Obrador sought to cool the strike rush Thursday, saying that wages should rise "but we shouldn't create an atmosphere of labor instability."

His own actions touched off the troubles. Seeking to address decades of stagnant real wages, the

president after taking office Dec. 1 doubled the daily minimum wage to 176.20 pesos (about \$9.30) in communities along the U.S. border, where the cost of living is higher than elsewhere in Mexico. That set off the strikes in Matamoros because many union

wage contracts in the city are indexed to minimum wage increases.

Lopez Obrador has been left to engage in damage control. He held meetings this week with leading businessmen to reassure them that his leftist administration will be business-friendly.

"My recommendation is that salaries should rise, but at the same time people should consider the companies' situation, there should be balance. We have to preserve jobs," the president said Thursday.

That was an apparent reference to threats by several companies to close their plants in Matamoros.

The situation has gotten so bad that Coca-Cola products are growing scarce in Matamoros stores after the local plant was hit by a strike. The local Coca-Cola bottler, Bebidas Mundiales, said some workers had hijacked delivery trucks and set up a picket line outside its plant in the city, idling about 718 workers.

The company said its workers already earn an average of about \$13 a day, more than the \$9.20-\$10.50 that the maquiladora workers won in their strikes.

Walkouts are also spreading beyond border areas under variants of the Matamoros banner demand of "20/32" — a 20 percent pay raise and a bonus of 32,000 pesos. □

Venezuela's Juan Guaido says he will return to Caracas

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) —

Juan Guaido, recognized by many countries as Venezuela's president, said Thursday he would return to Caracas this weekend despite "threats."

Guaido spoke to reporters in Brazil's capital of Brasilia after meeting with President Jair Bolsonaro, who recognizes Guaido and has taken a hard line against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

Guaido did not detail what threats he faces, but one possibility is that Maduro could order his arrest.

Guaido and Bolsonaro called for a return to democracy in Venezuela, with Guaido saying he wanted free elections, monitored by international powers.

Oil-rich Venezuela was getting "closer and closer" to a change, he said.

Bolsonaro said Brazil would "spare no effort" at helping



Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, left, and Venezuela's self-proclaimed interim president Juan Guaido shake hands during a joint statement in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, Feb.28, 2019.

Associated Press

Venezuela return to democracy within the law. He said his administration sup-

ported decisions made by regional leaders in Bogota earlier this week, when

representatives discussed sanctions and diplomatic pressure but ruled out mili-

tary intervention.

During his visit to Brazil, Guaido was also expected to meet with Foreign Minister Ernesto Araujo, leaders of Congress and ambassadors of several countries.

On Tuesday, Guaido met in Colombia with regional diplomats and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence.

Guaido, the head of Venezuela's legislature, has won recognition as the country's rightful leader from more than 50 nations, including the United States, but has been unable to wrest power from Maduro.

Maduro's opponents say his re-election last year was fraudulent. His backers insist the vote was legal and say Guaido is violating the constitution.

Guaido-led attempts over the weekend to bring humanitarian aid into Venezuela via neighboring Brazil and Colombia failed. □

LOCAL



Leatherback Sea Turtle Season has started

ORANJESTAD — The Leatherback Sea Turtles nesting on Aruba don't live in the Caribbean, but in the Northern part of the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Nova Scotia, Canada. But they are born on Aruba's beaches. After 20 – 30 years they reach maturity and then return to their natal beach in order to nest during the turtle nesting season (March– July).

It is very impressive to see a huge sea turtle coming ashore, enjoy the sight, but make sure that the turtle does not see you! Stay out of her sight at a distance of at least 10 meters. All species of sea turtles are endangered and need our protection. Normally sea turtle females will nest at night.

What you can do to protect sea turtles:

- Lights out for sea turtles. Nighttime activities and artificial lighting may deter adult females from nesting. So PLEASE keep all lights off, including flashlights, flash photography and video equipment. "Sea turtles dig the dark"
- Ask your hotel manager to turn off or minimize the lights that are visible on the beach in front of the resort. Close the curtains of your room at night to prevent light shining on the beach.
- Do not drive on beaches. Not all of the turtle nests on all the beaches around Aruba are marked. Vehicles (4x4, quads) can crush the eggs and will compact the sand. Driving on a beach is not good for the condition of the sand (and also for our own condition it is better to walk!)
- Do not litter. Do not leave any plastic cups, straws or bags on the beach. The wind will blow it into the sea. A floating plastic bag is easily mistaken for a jellyfish, the Leatherback Sea Turtle's favorite food.
- Remove obstacles from the beach. Obstacles as beach furniture or recreational equipment may cause nesting females to abort their nesting attempt or may even trap them. So don't leave any beach chairs at night unattended close to the sea, but make a stack as far as possible away from the water.
- Do not disturb a nesting sea turtle. Do not attempt to touch the turtle but stay at a respectful distance (at least 10 meters). Do allow the turtle to complete the full nesting process (about two hours) and don't be in her way when she returns to the sea.
- Do call Turtugaruba (24 hour Turtle Hotline: (297) 5929393).
- If you witness a sea turtle, or if you see turtle crawl marks, during a late evening or early morning stroll on the beach please do call Turtugaruba or notify the front desk of your hotel. Thanks!



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Steelband of the Dutch Marines are back for Carnaval



SAVANETA — The Dutch Marines Steelband has been training hard and are ready to delight us with the sweet sound of the pans – also known as steel drums – during the last parades of carnival.

This year the Dutch Marines Steelband is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. The steelband set was made 50 years ago by Edgar Connor and donated to the Dutch Marines.

The Dutch Marines presented a spectacular ‘Children’s Concert’ dedicated to the children of Aruba. It was a free concert for elementary schoolchildren of Aruba. A total of 1300 children took part of this edu-

cational and fun event. Since they are commemorating their 50th anniversary, they had the Connor Brothers invited as their special guests. The children

were excited singing and dancing to the sounds of the steelpans. The Dutch Marines are looking forward to host this event again next year. □



Travel Tips



1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on www.airportaruba.com.

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Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary Burt & Fran Steinburg

ORANJESTAD — Fran & Burt Steinburg are on their beloved island celebrating their 50th Wedding anniversary. They couldn't ask for more being surrounded by their loved ones for such a special occasion on the island they call their home.

Shortly after their wedding they came to Aruba for the first time. They fell in love with the island and planned on coming back. Years passed by and it was 20 years later that they came back to the island with their 2 children. The kids also fell in love instantly with the island and they knew that this will become their home away from home. The entire family has been back every year since then. After staying at the Golden Tulip for several years they went over to buy a timeshare at Playa Linda where they found their forever home. After all these years Playa Linda's employees have become more like their friends & family.

Jessica, Ginny and Max Heckler wish Burt & Fran many more years of love and happiness together. ☐



50th
Anniversary

Walk the Perfect Mall



By Linda Reijnders
ORANJESTAD — Aruba is hot in every sense of the word, but not just in temperature. When the sun is at its highest, I prefer to beat the heat and escape to a comfy environment. The beach is a great option, but I have a need to shop, have a coffee, walk around, stop, try on that cute hat or buy these awesome shoes. After all of that, I crave for a cool glass of wine and a light snack just before I meet my friend for dinner. Yes, the perfect day!

housed in an elegant building with a classy interior and invites guest to play a round at the casino upstairs. Besides that, you're in midtown, the heart of Oranjestad.

The third reason that brings the customer in: Food! Of course, we need to fuel our inner body too and Renaissance has that ready for you. Starbucks, or a super lunch at Aquarius Restaurant and finish it all off with dinner at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House.

Imagine doing all of this, all at one place.
 Where?
 The perfect mall...

It's just an idea for you, but I do it.
 The Sport

Whether you're local or visitor, you just have to go to Renaissance Mall in Downtown Oranjestad. You ask why?
 Look, malls are everywhere.

Besides the offerings of the mall, I like the walking too. It is a well-known fact that Dutchies –like me– have a love affair with walking and as a matter of fact Mall Walking is a sport in the United States. Yes, it may sound crazy, but people actually walk and/or jog inside malls for exercise. In my opinion a great health boost in combination with shopping. And it's even better at Renaissance Mall, where you are out of the sun and have restrooms available as well as comfy seats and benches to take a moment of rest. I've got my hat and my new pair of shoes. I drank my wine and had a wonderful steak dinner and now, I will wander off to that sweet, soft suite at the Renaissance Hotel.

But according to Quora there are three main reasons why a mall is attractive. First reason: Popular brands. Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Rolex, Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, Cartier, Chopard, CH Carolina Herrera, Michael Kors, Kate Spade are only some of the over 30 stores in this one-stop shopping Valhalla. Renaissance Mall has them all.

The second reason Quora states: recreation and comfort. Well, Renaissance Mall is covered, cool, offers clean public restrooms, is

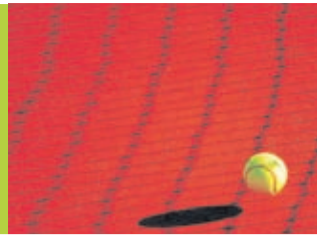
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Renaissance Mall is located in the heart of Oranjestad, a short walking distance from the Main Street, and opposite of the picturesque Renaissance Marina. Stores open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Find us on facebook.com/RenaissanceMallandMarketplace

<https://www.facebook.com/RenaissanceMarketplace/><https://twitter.com/renaissancemall><https://www.instagram.com/RenaissanceMallAruba/>

SPORTS



Growth is still the name of the game in MLS

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

Major League Soccer embarks this weekend on its 24th season with, appropriately enough, 24 teams. FC Cincinnati joins the league this season, with Nashville and Miami teed up to start next year and Austin coming aboard in 2021. MLS has added 11 teams in the past decade. So it's no wonder Commissioner Don Garber says MLS is still very much "a growth story."

One more expansion club, to be announced by the end of this year, will bring the league to 28. Sacramento and St. Louis are the front runners.

The league won't necessarily stop there, Garber told The Associated Press. "The future plan is something we're going to be working with our expansion committee on over the next year or so, and try to determine whether or not Major League Soccer is going to grow past 28," he said. "There's been no decision whatsoever in that regard and I'm not sure when exactly that ultimate decision will get made."

Apart from expansion and everything that goes with it, the league also needs to make sure it is properly developing talent, wisely managing rosters and ensuring the right designated players are coming into the league, Garber said.

Continued on Page 23



BRONN'S STAR

LeBron's 33 send Lakers past Davis' Pelicans, 125-119

Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) scores against the New Orleans Pelicans during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Jhonattan Vegas shoots 64 to take Honda Classic lead

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Sports Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

(AP) — A year ago at The Honda Classic, Jhonattan Vegas made seven birdies all week.

He's off to a much better start this time.

Vegas made six birdies and no bogeys Thursday, shooting a 6-under 64 to open a two-stroke lead after the first round. Lucas Glover bogeyed his finishing hole for a 66, leaving him tied with Zach Johnson, Ernie Els and Ben Silverman — who went to college at nearby Florida Atlantic.

"Hit my irons the best I've hit them all year and I've always liked this golf course," Vegas said. "It's kind of one of those courses that I think suits me. You have to hit the ball well and you have to get around really well. And then I made a few putts."

Brooks Koepka, Rickie Fowler and Sergio Garcia were in a large group at 67, and defending champion Justin Thomas shot 68 after an eventful day that saw him play the last eight holes without a 9-iron after it bent when he hit it against a tree.

"To feel like I gave quite a few back today and shoot 2-under par on this golf course, it's great," Thomas said.

Also at 68 was Sam Saunders, the grandson of golf legend Arnold Palmer. Saunders birdied all three



Jhonattan Vegas, right, of Venezuela, and Gary Woodland line up their putts on the 12th hole during the first round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

holes in the famed "Bear Trap" stretch at PGA National, the run of holes 15 through 17 where a par 4 is sandwiched by a pair of par 3s that can be treacherous even without much wind.

Vegas made 12 bogeys last year at the Honda, along with three doubles and a triple, wound up beating only one of the 74 finishers and wrapped up the week with a final-round 78. He sprayed irons everywhere, missed half of the

fairways, more than half of the greens.

But Thursday, he was dialed in — missing only three of 14 fairways and three of the 18 greens, needing only 29 putts to get through the day.

"I felt like I was in control pretty much all day long," Vegas said.

The 34-year-old Venezuelan has three PGA Tour victories, winning the 2011 Bob Hope Classic and the RBC Canadian Open in 2016 and 2017. Vegas took ad-

vantage on a day to make noise at PGA National, where the wind was down. And that's not typical.

Forecasters correctly said breezes would be relatively light all day and should stay that way until perhaps the weekend, though Johnson — whose weather apps said breezes were going to be no more than 3 or 4 mph — was among those who felt the wind was still a factor and fluctuated more than expected.

"We had a stretch there on

the front nine where it was a lot more than that," Johnson said. "The ball curving with the wind, depending on the direction, easily 10 to 15 to 20 yards. And then we made the turn and it started to be more consistent, not as gusty. ... It was not Honda wind. I don't think we're going to get Honda wind until Sunday." Els had no complaints.

Els has won more than 70 tournaments worldwide, 19 of them on the PGA Tour — the last of those coming in 2012 at the British Open. Getting a 20th on tour, he said, has been a goal for some time.

"Secretly on tour among the players, you know when you win No. 20 you get some benefits," Els said. "It's late in my career, but I'll take any win now."

Thomas sizzled at the start with three birdies in his first four holes, and made the turn at 4-under.

That's when his day got eventful.

His drive ended up behind a tree on the 10th, and he figured that his 9-iron would snap on the follow-through of his approach shot. It merely bent instead, and the jolt of the impact meant Thomas was going to be spending some time Thursday night with an icepack on his wrist. He doesn't believe it'll impact him Friday.

"Just more of a shock than anything," Thomas said. □

Five tied for LPGA Singapore lead, Michelle Wie out injured

SINGAPORE (AP) — No. 1-ranked Ariya Jutanugarn's 10-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole gave her a 4-under 68 and a five-way share of the first-round lead at the HSBC Women's World Championship on Thursday.

Tied with Jutanugarn were No. 3 Minjee Lee, Amy Olson, Yu Liu and Celine Boutier, who won her first LPGA tournament three weeks ago at the Vic Open in Australia.

No. 2 Sun Hyun Park bogeyed 18 after hitting her approach into a bunker for

a 69 to drop into a seven-way tie for sixth, one stroke behind the leaders.

After an eagle on the eighth, her second-last hole, Olson just missed a 30-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole.

"It's not a long par 5 but it's a very challenging approach shot from that far," the American said of the eighth. "You can't be short because you'll be in the hazard, and then it's a really tough bunker shot for that pin if you go over the green.

"I hit a really nice, high shot,

so it would come in soft and it just ended up being perfect."

Scoring conditions on Sentosa Golf Club's Tanjong layout were difficult most of the day Thursday due to gusty winds and slick greens.

"They have been pretty fast, but it's really tough because it's really firm," Jutanugarn said. "It's so tough to hit like close to the pin. I missed lots of putts but also made a few putts."

Former No. 1 Lydia Ko shot 72, as did Lexi Thompson and Cristie Kerr. Nelly Kor-

da, who won the Women's Australian Open two weeks ago, had 74. Brooke Henderson dropped four shots in two holes on the eighth and ninth and had a 75.

Defending champion Michelle Wie was forced to withdraw with a recurrence of a right hand injury. Wie, making her second start of the season after surgery on her right hand earlier this month, was 10-over after 14 holes when she withdrew while playing the 15th. She was holding her right wrist and hand as she walked up the fairway. Wie fractured

her hand and sustained extensive neck injuries in a car accident two years ago.

The 29-year-old Wie played in last week's LPGA Thailand tournament, where she finished tied for 23rd.

The original 63-player field has no cut. The top 12 players in the world went off in the final four groups Thursday. Amy Yang, who won last week in Thailand, pulled out with an undisclosed illness after three holes and 3-over. Sei Young Kim also withdrew with a back injury after 12 holes, also while 3-over. □

Lightning win 10th straight, Flames streak to 7th in a row

By The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Victor Hedman scored at 3:25 of overtime and the Tampa Bay Lightning extended their winning streak to a franchise-record 10 games with a 4-3 victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday night.
 Tyler Johnson, J.T. Miller and Dan Girardi also scored for Tampa Bay, which has an NHL-leading 102 points. Nikita Kucherov added three assists to give him a league-leading 74. Andrei Vasilevsky had 33 saves.
 Jimmy Vesey had a goal and assist for the Rangers. Mika Zibanejad and Boo Nieves also scored. Alexander Georgiev had 26 saves, including stopping Hedman on a breakaway earlier in overtime.

FLAMES 2, DEVILS 1
NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Johnny Gaudreau set up two second-period goals and Western Conference-leading Calgary extended its season-high winning streak to seven games with a victory over New Jersey.
 Elias Lindholm and Mark Giordano scored for the Flames, who have points in eight straight games. David Rittich made 19 saves in improving to 22-5-5.
 Kevin Rooney scored a short-handed goal for the Devils. Mackenzie Blackwood, who spent the last three weeks in the minor leagues, was outstanding in making 33 saves in his return to the NHL. The game was delayed about 10 minutes early in the third period after Devils defenseman Mirco Mueller crashed into the end boards on a rush and had to be taken on the ice on a stretcher. He moved his legs and gave a thumbs-up to fans.

MAPLE LEAFS 6, OILERS 2
TORONTO (AP) — Andreas Johnsson scored twice during Toronto's four-goal outburst in a seven-minute stretch to open the second period and the Maple Leafs cruised past Edmonton.
 Mitch Marner added a goal and two assists, while John Tavares, William Nylander and Patrick Marleau all had a goal and an assist for Toronto. Frederik Andersen made 34 saves for the Maple Leafs, who turn their attention to Thursday night when they visit the Islanders in Tavares' return to New York.

Leon Draisaitl and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored for Edmonton. Mikko Koskinen allowed four goals on 16 shots before being replaced by Anthony Stolarz, who finished with 18 saves. Oilers star Connor McDavid returned to the lineup after serving his two-game suspension for a hit to the head on Islanders defenseman Nick Leddy last week.

AVALANCHE 3, CANUCKS 2, SO

DENVER (AP) — Carl Soderberg scored in the sixth round of the shootout, Semyon Varlamov came up with big saves all night long and Colorado beat Vancouver.
 Soderberg knocked in the winner off the glove of Jacob Markstrom as the Avalanche improved to 2-12 in games beyond regulation. Varlamov made 30 saves through overtime and five more in the shootout.
 Mikko Rantanen had a goal and Nathan MacKinnon added his 33rd goal of the season to tie captain Gabriel Landeskog for the team lead. The Avalanche have gone 5-0-1 over their



New York Rangers goalie Alexander Georgiev deflects a shot by Tampa Bay Lightning's Brayden Point during the first period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, at Madison Square Garden in New York. At left is New York Rangers Fredrik Claesson.

Associated Press

last six games to climb back into the playoff chase.
 Josh Leivo tied the game at 2 with 3:02 remaining in regulation on a wrist shot. Antoine Roussel also scored for the Canucks.

BLACKHAWKS 4, DUCKS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Patrick Kane scored with 16.1 seconds remaining on an odd-man rush and the Chicago Blackhawks rallied for a 4-3 victory over the Anaheim Ducks on Wednesday night. □

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Dwyane Wade banks in 3-pointer to lift Heat past Warriors

MIAMI (AP) — Dwyane Wade banked in a straight-away 3-pointer as time expired and the Miami Heat wasted a 24-point lead before rallying to beat the Golden State Warriors 126-125 on Wednesday night.

Wade scored 25 points to help Miami snap a six-game home losing streak. Wade took a victory lap, waving a towel as the fans roared and "This Is My House" was displayed on the video boards.

Goran Dragic led the Heat with 27 points. Josh Richardson added 21, and Miami made 18 3-pointers.

Klay Thompson scored 36 points for the Warriors. Kevin Durant added 29, but missed a free throw with 14 seconds left that kept the Heat within two points. Durant made the second of two on that trip, and Wade delivered on the ensuing possession for the biggest win of Miami's season.

Stephen Curry had 24 points for the Warriors, a half-game ahead of Denver for the Western Conference lead.

LAKERS 125, PELICANS 119
LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James scored 33 points, Brandon Ingram added 23 and Los Angeles weathered strong performances by Anthony Davis and Julius Randle for a victory over New Orleans.

Davis had 22 points and eight rebounds in the first three quarters after getting a warm pregame reception from Lakers fans who eagerly followed Los Angeles' fruitless pursuit of a trade for the superstar forward earlier this season.



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots a 3-pointer at the buzzer over Golden State Warriors forward Jordan Bell (2) during an NBA basketball Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, in Miami. The Heat won 126-125.

Associated Press

Randle scored 35 points against his former team, but couldn't finish a comeback against James and the Lakers' new core during New Orleans' fifth loss in seven games.

ROCKETS 118, HORNETS 113
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — James Harden scored 30 points, Clint Capela had 23 points and a career-high 17 rebounds and Houston beat Charlotte for its third straight victory.

In his first game since his streak of 30-point games ended at 32, Harden struggled from the field, missing his first eight shots from 3-point range — even having one blocked by Nic Batum. Harden finished 10 of 29 from the field and 1 of 11 from 3-point range, but made two free throws with 14.6 seconds left to put it away.

Chris Paul heated up in the fourth quarter and finished with 17 points and 10 assists. Kemba Walker had 35 points for Charlotte, 27 in the first half. He was 3 of 12 from the floor in the second half.

HAWKS 131, TIMBERWOLVES 123, OT

ATLANTA (AP) — Trae Young matched the career high he set earlier in the week with 36 points, John Collins had 34 and Atlanta beat Minnesota in overtime. Collins scored 18 points in the fourth quarter as Atlanta, which trailed by 13 points late in the third period, rallied to force the extra period.

Karl-Anthony Towns led the Timberwolves with 37 points and 17 rebounds. Andrew Wiggins had 21 points. DeAndre Bembry scored six of his 16 points in overtime

for Atlanta.

TRAIL BLAZERS 97, CELTICS 92

BOSTON (AP) — Damian Lillard scored 21 of his 33 points in the second half and Portland handed Boston its fourth straight loss. Maurice Harkless had 17 points and 10 rebounds, Jusef Nurkic scored 16 points, and CJ McCollum finished with 14 points for the Blazers. They have won a season-best five straight. The struggling Celtics are winless since the All-Star break. Kyrie Irving scored 31 points to lead Boston. Kyrie Irving scored 31 points for Boston. The Celtics are winless since the All-Star break.

SPURS 105, PISTONS 93

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points, DeMar DeRozan had 17 points and 13 points,

and San Antonio returned home after a 25-day absence to beat Detroit and snap a three-game skid.

The Spurs returned to the AT&T Center for the first time since Feb. 2 after going 1-7 on their rodeo trip, the worst they have fared on their annual excursion. Reggie Jackson scored 22 points for Detroit.

BUCKS 141, KINGS 140, OT
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— Eric Bledsoe scored five of his 26 points in overtime when Milwaukee played all but the final 12 seconds without Giannis Antetokounmpo, and the Bucks beat Sacramento.

Bledsoe added 13 assists and 12 rebounds to help the Bucks to their sixth straight win. Malcolm Brogdon had 25 points, including a 3-pointer late in overtime, while Khris Middleton and Nikola Mirotic scored 21 points apiece as Milwaukee improved to an NBA-best 47-14. Antetokounmpo scored 17 points and made a pair of key baskets for Milwaukee late in the fourth quarter but spent nearly all of overtime on the bench with a grey towel wrapped around his shoulders in his first game back from a sore knee. Buddy Hield had 32 points and six rebounds for Sacramento.

MAVERICKS 110, PACERS 101

DALLAS (AP) — Luka Dončić had 26 points and 10 rebounds in his final game as a teenager, fellow rookie Jalen Brunson scored a season-high 24 points and Dallas beat Indiana to end a five-game losing streak. □



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AP source: Harper, Phillies agree to \$330M, 13-year deal

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bryce Harper and the Philadelphia Phillies have agreed to a \$330 million, 13-year contract, the largest deal in baseball history, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Thursday because the agreement is subject to a successful physical.

A 26-year-old All-Star outfielder, Harper topped the \$325 million, 13-year agreement outfielder Giancarlo Stanton reached before the 2015 season with the Miami Marlins.

Harper's agreement, first reported by the MLB Network, tops the previous high for a free agent, set last week when infielder Manny Machado signed a \$300 million, 10-year deal with the San Diego Padres. Harper's average annual value of \$25.4 million ranks 14th in baseball history, well below the high of \$31.4 million set by Arizona pitcher Zack Greinke as part of a \$206.5 million, six-year contract that started in 2016. Harper gets a \$20 million signing bonus, a \$10 million salary this year, \$26 million in each of the following nine seasons and \$22 million in each of the last three years. None of the money is deferred.

Philadelphia has been among the most active teams this offseason, adding outfielder Andrew McCutchen for \$50 million over three years and reliever David Robertson for \$23 million over two years, and acquiring catcher J.T. Realmuto and shortstop Jean Segura.

After leading their division in early August, the Phillies went 16-33 over the final



In this July 16, 2018, file photo, Washington Nationals Bryce Harper (34) reacts to his winning hit during the Major League Baseball Home Run Derby, in Washington.

49 games of last season and at 80-82 finished with a losing record for the sixth straight season.

San Francisco and the Los Angeles Dodgers had also pursued Harper in recent weeks.

Harper has been an All-Star in six of seven big league seasons for the Washington Nationals and was the unanimous winner of the 2015 NL MVP award.

An up-and-down defender and an unusual mix of popular and polarizing, Harper is known for the occasional contretemps with opponents, one particular exchange with a reporter about a "clown question," and, most infamously, a dugout dustup in which he was choked by then-teammate Jonathan Papelbon during a game.

Washington took him with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2010 amateur draft and called him up to the majors less than two years later at age 19. He would go on to become the 2012 NL Rookie of the Year for a Nationals club that won its first division title and made its postseason debut.

Harper was also an integral part of the team that added NL East titles in 2014, 2016 and 2017 and never finished lower than second place in his seven seasons. Another key stat, though: The Nationals never won a playoff series in that span. His best year was 2015, when at age 22 he hit .330 with 42 homers, 99 RBIs, 118 runs and 124 walks, amassing an OPS of 1.109.

Last year, he hit 34 homers and produced a career-

high 100 RBIs while walking 130 times, although his batting average dipped to .249. He started more than a third of his games in center field instead of his usual spot in right, because of injuries to teammates.

With Washington's Nationals Park hosting the 2018 All-Star Game, Harper stole the show the day before the Midsummer Classic by winning the Home Run Derby before an ecstatic crowd filled with folks wearing his No. 34 Nationals jersey. Harper wore a headband with the D.C. flag's design, reflecting his oft-stated pride in playing for Washington.

But that eventually ran its course. The Nationals made an offer toward the end of last season — a \$300 million, 10-year contract that

was no longer on the table after free agency opened without an agreement.

A year after going 82-80 and missing the playoffs under rookie manager Dave Martinez, the Nationals will move forward without Harper.

Washington general manager Mike Rizzo would have loved to keep Harper in his team's lineup but didn't sit around and wait to find out whether that would happen. Instead, Rizzo spent such money elsewhere, adding lefty starter Patrick Corbin on a \$140 million deal and righty starter Anibal Sanchez, along with second baseman Brian Dozier, a pair of catchers in Yan Gomes and Kurt Suzuki and two key bullpen pieces in Trevor Rosenthal and Kyle Barraclough. □



In this Friday, Sept. 14, 2018 file photo, Montreal Alouettes quarterback Johnny Manziel throws a pass during warmups before a CFL football game against the BC Lions in Montreal.

Associated Press

Alliance says Manziel "available" for San Antonio team

By The Associated Press

Johnny Manziel is now "available" to the San Antonio Commanders of the Alliance of American Football, the team's general manager said Thursday.

That doesn't mean Daryl Johnston plans to sign him. Before acting on Manziel, the Commanders and the new league are looking into why Manziel's contract was terminated by the CFL this week.

"I had a conversation with (Alliance chairman) Tom Dundon, he's the one who informed me of what happened and that Johnny Manziel was now available," Johnston said Thursday. "He just said, 'He belongs to you in San Antonio, what are your thoughts?'"

"I said, 'Let's sit back and see what the league thinks and then we'll move ahead from there.' We're just kind of in a holding pattern right now here locally in San Antonio."

Manziel's contract with the Montreal Alouettes was terminated Wednesday. The league also told the eight other CFL clubs it wouldn't register a contract for Manziel if anyone tried to sign the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner.

The league said Manziel, a first-round draft pick by Cleveland in 2013 who soon flamed out of the NFL, breached an agreement that made him eligible for

the CFL.

The Commanders own Manziel's AAF rights because he played at Texas A&M. The franchise has seven regular-season games remaining.

San Antonio, coached by former Winnipeg Blue Bombers coach Mike Riley, has a 1-2 record with quarterback Logan Woodside. He's second in passing yards (629) but has completed just 50 of 98 attempts and thrown five interceptions to two touchdowns.

Johnston, the former Dallas Cowboys running back and NFL broadcaster, said some big-name players have demanded bigger salaries to suit up in the AAF, but doesn't believe Manziel is one of them.

"The one thing Tom wants to make sure is that everyone in the Alliance is paid the same," Johnston said. "It sounds as though Johnny Manziel is comfortable coming down here and playing at the salaries that have been established with us in the Alliance."

That would be \$250,000 for three seasons, plus bonuses. Manziel was 2-6 as a starter last season, completing 106 of 165 passes (64.2 percent) for 1,290 yards with five TDs and seven interceptions. He also ran for 215 yards on 29 carries as Montreal (5-13) missed the CFL playoffs. □

Nadal tumbles out of Mexican Open, falling to Kyrgios



Australia's Nick Kyrgios rolls on the court as he celebrates after defeating Spain's Rafael Nadal in their Mexican Tennis Open round 2 match, in Acapulco, Mexico, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — Rafael Nadal tumbled out of the Mexican Open on Wednesday night, squandering three match points in a 3-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (6) loss to Australia's Nick Kyrgios. The top seed also fell in the women's event, with Sloane Stephens losing to Brazilian qualifier Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-3, 6-3.

Playing his first event since losing to Novak Djokovic in late January in the Australian Open final, top-seeded Nadal dropped the first two match points on Kyrgios' serve and the last one on his own first serve.

Nadal won in Acapulco in 2005 and 2013. On Tuesday night, the second-ranked Spanish star opened play

with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Mischa Zverev.

Kyrgios set up a quarter-final match against Stan Wawrinka, a 7-6 (5), 6-4 winner over seventh-seeded Steve Johnson in the hard-court event at The Princess Mundo Imperial.

The fourth-ranked Stephens, the 2017 U.S. Open, was making her first appearance in the event since winning the 2016 title. Haddad Maia earned her first victory in seven career matches against players ranked in the top 10.

"It was just a tough match, obviously she played well," Stephens said. "A tough day. But I'm not too sad about it. I'm just going to go back and work some more, practice some more and get ready for Indian Wells." Haddad Maia will face Wang Yafan in the quarterfinals. Wang led Monica Puig 4-1 when Puig retired because of an injury. □

Federer reaches semis in Dubai as he chases 100th title

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Roger Federer is two matches away from his 100th career title after beating Marton Fucsovics 7-6 (6), 6-4 on Thursday to reach the Dubai Championships semifinals.

Federer faced two set points in the tiebreaker but Fucsovics hit two forehands into the net to let the Swiss star take control. Federer then wasted an early break in the second set but broke again for a 5-4 lead before serving out the match when Fucsovics sent a forehand return wide.

Federer is looking to become the second man in the professional era to reach 100 tour-level tournament titles, joining Jimmy Connors, who won 109. Seven of Federer's previous 99 triumphs have come in Dubai.

He will face the winner of Borna Coric and Nikolaz Basilashvili in the semifinals.



Roger Federer of Switzerland returns the ball to Marton Fucsovics of Hungary during their match at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

The other semifinal will pit rising star Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece against French veteran Gael Monfils.

Tsitipis outlasted Hubert Hurkacz 7-6 (4), 6-7 (1), 6-1, while Monfils beat Ricardas Berankis 6-1, 6-7 (3), 6-2.

Both Tsitsipas and Monfils are coming off tournament wins in Europe last week and have a 1-1 head-to-

head record.

"We're both serving really well," Tsitsipas said. "We have similar game style. I guess I'm a bit more aggressive than him, but he's much faster. I'm going to have to deal with all of that, be patient, play with passion as well, just wait for the opportunities to break him." □

U.S. ties Japan 2-2 in Women's World Cup tuneup

By DAVE ZEITLIN

Associated Press

CHESTER, Pa. (AP) — Jill Ellis watched her team lose a chance to beat a rival in the final minutes. The U.S. women's soccer coach did not, however, lose any confidence ahead of the Women's World Cup.

Alex Morgan scored her 99th international goal, but Yuka Momiki responded with a stoppage-time equalizer and Japan tied the United States 2-2 on Wednesday night in the SheBelieves Cup tuneup tournament for the World Cup.

Megan Rapinoe also scored for the Americans in a rematch of the last two World Cup finals.

"I feel like the result was disappointing, for sure," Ellis said. "But I thought the performance in both halves, there were some really good things."

Emi Nakajima scored in the 67th minute for eighth-ranked Japan after a poor clearance from Tierna Da-

vidson, and Morgan chested home the go-ahead goal in the 76th minute off a pass from Christen Press — a minute after Press entered the game.

"It's not my first chest goal with the national team," Morgan said. "At the end of the day, a goal is a goal. I don't care what part of the body it comes off of."

Ellis called Press' immediate impact "freaking awesome," and indicated she could push for a starting spot in a loaded frontline.

"Something you look at going into the World Cup is your depth and if you have players who can change the game," the US coach said. "She's posing a lot of challenges now in terms of selection because I thought she was an instant game-changer for us."

Momiki stunned the crowd with a 91st-minute goal from close range. Japan finished with two shots on goal, scoring on both of them.

"We made two mistakes in



United States' Alex Morgan, right, scores a goal as Japan's Erina Yamane, left, looks on during the second half of SheBelieves Cup soccer match, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, in Chester, Pa. The match ended in a 2-2 tie.

Associated Press

the back that cost us," Ellis said. The match was part of the opening day of the round-robin tournament that features four of the world's top 10 teams. Eng-

land beat Brazil 2-1 in the first game of the double-header at Talen Energy Stadium, home of Major League Soccer's Philadelphia Union. Exactly 100

days before the World Cup kicks off in France, Ellis deployed a mostly first-choice lineup with the exceptions of the injured Lindsey Horan and Becky Sauerbrunn. □

MLS

Continued from Page 17

Cincinnati opens its first MLS season on Saturday night against the Seattle Sounders. Cincinnati did well in the lower-division United Soccer League last season, compiling a 23-8-3 regular-season record. Season ticket sales have so far surpassed 20,000.

The Philadelphia Union host Toronto FC in the league's opening match of the season on Saturday afternoon. KEY DEPARTURES: MLS has raised its profile on the international transfer market and in recent months has moved several rising stars to high-profile European teams. Canadian teenager Alphonso Davies left the Whitecaps for Bayern Munich, former Red Bulls midfielder Tyler Adams went to RB Leipzig, Miguel Almiron left MLS Cup champion Atlanta for Newcastle United and Crew goalkeeper Zack Steffen is headed to Manchester City in July.

NEW COACHES: The league welcomes four new coaches this season. Ok, so Caleb Porter isn't new,

he led the Portland Timbers to the MLS Cup in 2015. But he sat out of the league last season after parting ways with the club. He joins the Columbus Crew, the team Portland beat for the league title. Also new is Matias Almeyda, the reigning CONCACAF Coach of the Year who is taking over the San Jose Earthquakes, and Guillermo Barros Schelotto, a former MLS MVP and recently the Boca Juniors manager who is now coach of the LA Galaxy. Frank de Boer, who has stints at Ajax, Crystal Palace and AC Milan under his belt, assumes the reins at Atlanta United following the departure of Tata Martino for the Mexican national team.

SHORTER SEASON: MLS is shortening its season by a month this year, going to single-elimination playoffs and setting the MLS Cup final on Nov. 10 — its earliest finish since 2002. Because the league has expanded to 24 teams, MLS is also expanding the playoffs to include 14 teams, seven from each conference.

The all-knockout postseason replaces the two-leg format for the conference semifinals and finals that the league started using in 2003. Garber said the new format will reward teams for top regular-season records because they'll get greater home-field advantage. The shorter season will also ensure down the road that MLS wraps up before the start of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, set to start on Nov. 21.

YOUNG TALENT: Atlanta's Pity Martinez, the reigning South American Player of the Year, leads the 2019 class of fresh faces. Others to watch include attacking midfielder Marco Fabian, a Mexican national team regular who will play for the Philadelphia Union. Vancouver added an intriguing player in 22-year-old midfielder In-beom Hwang of South Korea. The average age of the newcomers to the league is 25, down two years from four seasons ago.

One not-so-young newbie but nonetheless a player to watch is Nani, the 32-year-



In this May 29, 2018, file photo, Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber, left, and FC Cincinnati owner Carl Lindner III, right, pose for a photograph during an event to announce the addition of FC Cincinnati as an MLS expansion team at Rhi-negeist Brewery in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

old former Manchester United winger who agreed to a three-year contract with Orlando.

QUICK RECAP: Atlanta, in just its second year, won the MLS Cup last year, beating the Timbers 2-0 in front of a crowd of more than 73,000 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Atlanta's Joseph Martinez was the league's Most Valuable Player, while setting the league record for most goals in the regular season with 31.

RANDOM NOTABLES: Colorado Rapids goalkeeper Tim Howard is retiring after this season. The 39-year-old former standout for the U.S. national team has made 257 saves in 75 appearances with the Rapids. He joined Colorado in 2016. San Jose Earthquakes forward Chris Wondolowski is on the verge of matching Landon Donovan's all-time league scoring record. Donovan had 145 and Wondolowski is sitting at 144. □

Experts: U.S. anti-Huawei campaign likely exaggerated

By **FRANK BAJAK**

AP Cybersecurity Writer

Since last year, the U.S. has waged a vigorous diplomatic offensive against the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, claiming that any nation deploying its gear in next-generation wireless networks is giving Beijing a conduit for espionage or worse.

But security experts say the U.S. government is likely exaggerating that threat. Not only is the U.S. case short on specifics, they say, it glosses over the fact that the Chinese don't need secret access to Huawei routers to infiltrate global networks that already have notoriously poor security.

State-sponsored hackers have shown no preference for one manufacturer's technology over another, these experts say. Kremlin-backed hackers, for instance, adroitly exploit internet routers and other networking equipment made by companies that are not Russian.

If the Chinese want to disrupt global networks, "they will do so regardless of the type of equipment you are using," said Jan-Peter Kleinhans, a researcher at the Berlin think tank Neue Verantwortung Stiftung.



In this Jan. 24, 2019, file photo Richard Yu, CEO of Huawei Consumer Business Group, unveils the 5G modem Balong 5000 chipset in Beijing.

Associated Press

One of the most common U.S. fears — that Huawei might install software "backdoors" in its equipment that Chinese intelligence could use to tap into, eavesdrop on or interrupt data transmissions -- strikes some experts as highly unlikely. Priscilla Moriuchi, who retired from the National Security Agency in 2017 after running its Far East operations, does not believe the Huawei threat is overblown. But she called the odds of the company

installing backdoors on behalf of Chinese intelligence "almost zero because of the chance that it would be discovered," thus exposing Huawei's complicity. Moriuchi, now an analyst at the U.S. cybersecurity firm Recorded Future, said she was not aware of the NSA ever finding Huawei backdoors created for Chinese intelligence but also cautioned that it can be extraordinarily difficult, when backdoors are found, to determine who is behind

them. European allies have been reluctant to embrace a blanket anti-Huawei ban even as U.S. officials continue to cast the world's No. 1 telecom-equipment maker as little more than an untrustworthy surrogate for Beijing's intelligence services. The top U.S. diplomat for cybersecurity policy, Robert Strayer, says Huawei is obliged to heed Chinese Communist Party orders by a 2017 intelligence law that

"compels their citizens and their companies to participate in intelligence activities."

Strayer provided no specifics when pressed by reporters Tuesday as to how Huawei gear might pose more of a security threat than other manufacturers' switches, routers and wireless base stations. The diplomat spoke at Mobile World Congress, the world's largest wireless trade show, in Barcelona, Spain.

The American rhetoric has included threats.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo suggested in a TV interview last week any use of Huawei equipment could jeopardize U.S. intelligence sharing and might even be a reason to locate military bases elsewhere. The remarks may have been targeted at NATO allies including Poland and the Czech Republic where Huawei has made significant inroads.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. National Security Council declined to comment or to provide any officials to address specifics. A State Department spokesman referred The Associated Press to a press statement on Strayer's remarks in Barcelona. □



In this Friday, Feb. 22, 2019 photo Harald Krueger, right, CEO of the car manufacturer BMW, and Dieter Zetsche, left, CEO of the Daimler stock company and the car manufacturer Mercedes Benz, talk during a press conference in Berlin, Germany.

Associated Press

By **DAVID MCHUGH**

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— BMW and Daimler announced Thursday they will work together on developing the automated driving technology expected to transform the industry in the

years ahead as automakers try to fend off competition from tech companies such as Uber and Waymo. The two German companies said it would be a "long-term strategic cooperation" to more quickly come up with advanced

BMW, Daimler team up on automated driving technology

driver assistance systems, automated driving on closed spaces such as highways and automated parking.

The partnership comes as automakers face new rivals in the business of getting people from one place to another such as Uber and Waymo, which are both working on autonomous driving. BMW and Daimler last week launched a joint venture in auto-related digital services such as car sharing, ride-hailing and ticketless parking. Ford and Volkswagen have said they are talking about teaming up on developing autonomous and battery-pow-

ered cars. BMW and Daimler said that by working together, they can shorten development cycles and make "next-level technologies widely available by the middle of the coming decade." The cooperation for now focuses on automation that falls short of fully self-driving vehicles that do not have a driver, but could be extended to that level in the future.

Autonomous driving is part of a wave of technological change expected to shift the auto industry toward offering the use of a car as a service through smartphone apps as an alterna-

tive to car ownership. Klaus Froehlich, chief of development for BMW, said that "combining the strength of our two companies will boost our innovative strength and speed up the spread of this technology." The linkup doesn't cancel any work the companies have going with other partners, such as Daimler's pilot program with technology and parts supplier Bosch on self-driving vehicles in California. BMW is working on developing autonomous cars at its campus in Unterschliessheim, north of its Munich headquarters. Daimler is headquartered in Stuttgart. □

JC Penney closes more stores after a weak holiday season

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — J.C. Penney is closing more stores following weak holiday sales season for the retailer. Net income tumbled nearly 70 percent, and a key measure for health dropped 4 percent in the fourth-quarter, the most crucial period of the year for retailers who bank on strong holiday sales.

The company's did top expectations for the fourth quarter results and under new CEO Jill Soltau, the department store rid itself of unprofitable inventory and said it will have positive free cash flow this year.

Shares jumped more than 23 percent Thursday.

Soltau, who came on board in October, faces numerous challenges in avoiding the fate of Sears or other retailers that have filed for bankruptcy protection, or vanished.



In this May 16, 2018, file photo, the J.C. Penney logo is seen hanging outside the Manhattan mall in New York.

Associated Press

Under Soltau, jettisoned major appliances which accounted for 2.7 percent of J.C. Penney's sales last year, but dragged on the company's operating prof-

it. It's focusing instead on women's clothing, and goods for the home like towels or bedsheets, which carry higher profit margins.

Furniture is still available, but only online.

That reverses the course followed by predecessor Marvin Ellison, who three years ago began selling

major appliances again in an attempt to capitalize on problems at Sears.

In a conference call Thursday, Soltau said she has spent time with customers, suppliers and workers and she said she's convinced that the company can establish a path of "sustainable profit growth."

Changes will be swift, methodical and based on what customers want and expect from J.C. Penney, Soltau said. "This is not business-as-usual," she said during a conference call Thursday. "Our current reality is clear."

Department stores like J.C. Penney are trying to reinvent themselves in an era when Americans are buying more online, or turning to discounters like T.J. Maxx for clothing.

Bringing back shoppers is has proven exceedingly difficult, even for iconic brands. □

US stocks open lower after weak economic growth report

By DAMIAN J. TROISE

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks are opening slightly lower on Wall Street Thursday after the government reported that economic growth slowed down at the end of last year. There were also disappointing earnings and forecasts from several technology companies.

The latest figures show that the U.S. economy grew in the fourth quarter at its slowest pace since the beginning of 2018. The growth still beat economists' forecasts, which sent bond

yields higher.

Several tech companies delivered subpar results. HP plunged after reporting weak sales of printers and computers. Cloud-computing company Box nosedived after giving delivering a weak forecast. Priceline.com parent Booking Holding fell after warning of a slowdown of sales in Europe.

Stocks in Asia, especially South Korea, fell after talks between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong

Un ended abruptly without an agreement. By cutting short their meeting, the two leaders foiled hopes for an agreement with tangible progress toward ending the North's nuclear program that could have raised confidence across the region.

Investors are still waiting for more details on trade negotiations between the U.S. and China. U.S. Trade Rep-

resentative Robert Lighthizer has raised doubts about progress, telling lawmakers that "much still needs to be done" before the sides can reach an agreement over Beijing's technology strategy and other issues.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 30 points, or 0.1 percent, to 25,957 as of 10:10a.m. The S&P 500 index fell 0.3 percent and the Nasdaq

composite lost 0.5 percent.

OVERSEAS: Stocks fell broadly in Asia. South Korea's Kospi shed 1.8 percent after negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea failed. Meanwhile, China's economy showed more signs of a slowdown with manufacturing activity falling to a three-year low in February.

Stocks were also broadly lower in Europe. □



In this Feb. 5, 2019, file photo trader Michael Urkonis works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

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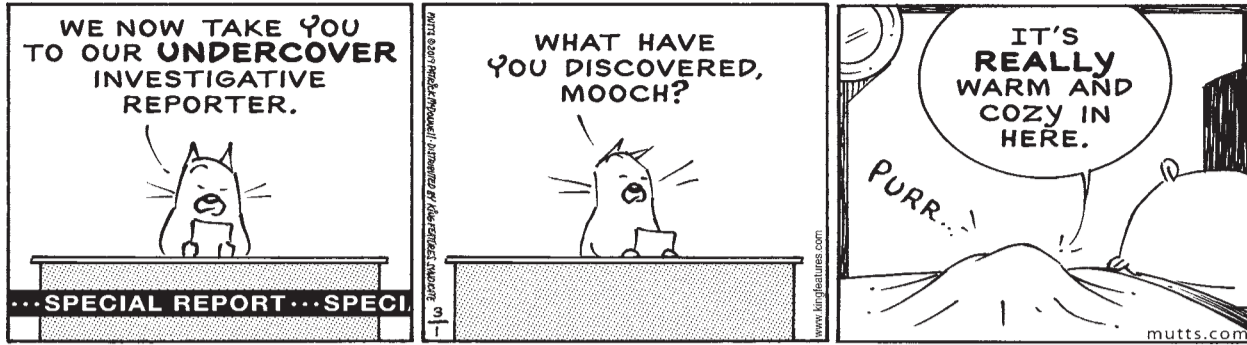
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Conceptis Sudoku

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2			1	9				6
6	3			7				
		7					8	
5	4					9		1
		9				6		
			5				7	2
1			2	4				8
				3				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

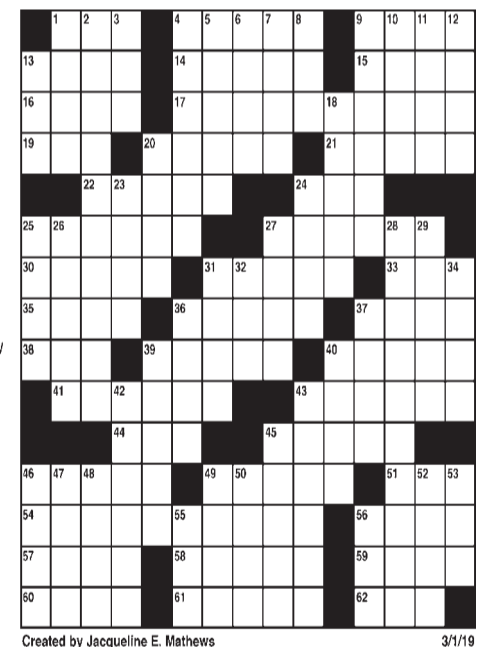
9	2	7	4	1	5	8	3	6
5	8	6	9	3	7	1	2	4
4	1	3	2	8	6	9	5	7
1	7	8	6	5	9	2	4	3
6	3	9	1	4	2	5	7	8
2	5	4	3	7	8	6	1	9
7	4	2	8	9	1	3	6	5
3	9	1	5	6	4	7	8	2
8	6	5	7	2	3	4	9	1

ACROSS

- 1 As blind as a ...
- 4 Beasts of burden
- 9 Tight hold
- 13 ... up; tie snugly
- 14 Window covering
- 15 Actress Turner
- 16 Landers & others
- 17 Songfests
- 19 ... walked out in the streets of Laredo...
- 20 Like BBQ sauce
- 21 Eggs on
- 22 TV's Mandel
- 24 Actress MacGraw
- 25 ... cord; part of the central nervous system
- 27 Become wide; swell
- 30 Prison units
- 31 Spinnaker & jib
- 33 "Jude"; Beatles hit
- 35 "Queen for ..." of old TV
- 36 Arms and legs
- 37 Marseilles morn
- 38 One not to be trusted
- 39 June honorees
- 40 "Ave ..."
- 41 Gets the hang of
- 43 First of two
- 44 Cover
- 45 Shakespearean lover
- 46 Car rental agency
- 49 Pitt & Garrett
- 51 Feminine pronoun
- 54 Unable to tell red from green
- 56 Stick around
- 57 Throw
- 58 Cop's ID
- 59 Mulgrew or Winslet
- 60 Classic dog's name
- 61 Merriment
- 62 Part of TGIF

DOWN

- 7 Nervous
- 8 Body of water
- 9 Singer Estefan
- 10 ... out; pealed
- 11 "Bus Stop" playwright
- 12 Go by
- 13 Lamb's cry
- 18 Soothes; puts to sleep
- 20 "... the night before Christmas..."
- 23 "It's ... a matter of time"
- 24 Feels sick
- 25 Skin mark
- 26 Brake or accelerator
- 27 Has ... on; claims in advance
- 28 Temperature regulator
- 29 Spooky
- 31 Tiny drinks
- 32 "I ... Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit
- 34 Period of time
- 36 Terra firma
- 37 Female animal



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/1/19

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

BADE	SPRIG	SMOG
ABES	HAITI	HEAL
NETS	ACCENTUATE	
DDE	TREE	ATTHE
	SKIDS	FLU
TATERS	PEOPLE	
ADAGE	ASIAN	EAR
RIBS	SPENT	PAGE
POL	CHEEK	RIFLE
SEALED	SIGHED	
	TED	LIASSO
ACTOR	WAGE	PHI
BLANKETING	UPON	
LAKE	DANCE	PEON
EYES	SPEED	ARTS

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- 39 ... to; before
- 40 Many PTA members
- 42 Just about
- 43 Silo contents
- 45 Stove
- 46 Doesn't just sit there
- 47 Stunt pilot's maneuver
- 48 To boot
- 49 Feeling ...; in a funk
- 50 Carousel or Ferris wheel
- 52 Sombreros
- 53 Storm center
- 55 UK network
- 56 Zoom down snowy slopes

Classifieds

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Divi Village

1 BR WK # 8 & 9
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Divi links Golf

1 BR WK # 8 & 9
27 weeks remain
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Eagle Resort & Casino

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Dutch Village

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Barceló

2 BR dlx wk 9 and 10 \$40K
both wks

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR Penthouse WK # 11 & 12

Building 9 the 7th floor

27 weeks remain \$25K each

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Savaneta on the main road
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dollars

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 11 & 12
26 weeks remain each
\$9000 each
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26 weeks remain \$8000

Renaissance Suites

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Aruba Divi Phoenix
Studio wk # 9
building 6
5th floor \$9000
30 weeks remain

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Opal
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Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK # 11
Building 7 3rd floor
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Marriott Surf Club

2 BR Garden Vie w \$14,000
2 BR Ocean View \$ 15,000
2 BR Ocean Side \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27,000
3 BR Ocean View \$26,000

La Cabana Beach & Casino

1 Br Wk # 11 & 12
4th floor pool/Ocean view
Sunday check in \$ 18, 000 both
Divi Village
Studio WK # 6
22 weeks remain \$8000

Private Tour:

Meet Chocolate City
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Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR Wk # 8
Building # 6 on the 4th floor
With 29 weeks remain \$ 16K
1 BR WK # 10 building #8
6th floor 28 weeks remain \$16K

Barcelo Resorts

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\$25K both
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1 Br Supreme wk 2/17 \$15K
2 BR PH wk 2/17 \$25K

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SpaceX debuts new crew capsule in crucial test flight



In this Dec. 18, 2018 photo provided by SpaceX, SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft and Falcon 9 rocket are positioned inside the company's hangar at Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, ahead of the Demo-1 unmanned flight test. SpaceX rockets closer to human spaceflight with this weekend's debut of a new capsule designed for astronauts.

Associated Press

By **MARCIA DUNN**
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.
(AP) — SpaceX closes in on human spaceflight with this weekend's debut of a new capsule designed for astronauts.

The six-day test flight will be real in every regard, beginning with a Florida liftoff Saturday and a docking the next day with the International Space Station. But the Dragon capsule won't carry humans, rather a test dummy in the same white SpaceX spacesuit that astronauts will wear.

NASA doesn't expect this crucial shakedown cruise to go perfectly. But the lessons learned should improve safety when two

NASA astronauts strap into a Dragon as early as July.

"Giant leaps are made by a series of consistent smaller steps. This one will be a big step!" retired astronaut Scott Kelly, NASA's former one-year space station resident, tweeted Thursday.

Boeing is also in the race to end NASA's eight-year drought of launching U.S. astronauts on U.S. rockets from U.S. soil. The space agency is turning to private taxi rides to reduce its pricey reliance on Russian rockets to get astronauts to and from the space station. NASA is providing \$8 billion for SpaceX and Boeing to build and operate these new systems.

A look at the newest space

ride:

CREW VS. CARGO

SpaceX has made 16 space station deliveries over the past seven years. The private company overhauled the cargo Dragon capsule to make it safe — and comfortable — for passengers. It's slightly bigger — 27 feet (8 meters) tall — and also launches atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. But now there are four seats, three windows, computer touch screens and life-support systems. Instead of solar wings, solar cells are on the spacecraft itself. And eight engines are built into the capsule walls for use in an emergency; these abort engines could shoot the capsule off a malfunctioning rocket anytime during the launch.

SPACECHIC

You can't go into space looking dowdy. SpaceX chief executive Elon Musk wants Dragon riders looking sharp and 21st century, just like their new, white, sleek spaceship. The streamlined spacesuits are also white with black trim, with match-

ing helmets and gloves. No bulky orange flight suits left over from NASA's space shuttle program. Boeing is going with royal blue spacesuits for its Starliner capsule crews.

ALONG FOR THE RIDE

A life-size test dummy — wearing SpaceX's slick new spacesuit — is strapped into one of the capsule's seats. The mannequin is rigged with sensors to see how it holds up. It's similar to Starman, which blasted off last year in the driver's seat of Musk's red Tesla convertible, on a test launch of the company's bigger Falcon Heavy rocket. The capsule can accommodate up to seven astronauts. For this test, it's carrying 450 pounds (200 kilograms) of supplies and gear.

OLD PAD, NEW LOOK

Kennedy Space Center's historic Launch Complex 39A, used a half-century ago for Apollo moon shots and later space shuttle flights, has been remodeled and gussied up by tenant SpaceX. Most notable is the long, enclosed,

gleaming white walkway at the top. The old bridge for rocket-boarding astronauts was open to the elements. Astronauts like the new, air-conditioned design. "They're very happy that it's covered, and we're trying to keep the mosquitoes out. Those Florida mosquitoes, they can get in anywhere," said NASA's commercial crew program manager, Kathy Lueders.

FLIGHT RUNDOWN

This mission is a night owl's dream, with most of the big events happening in the wee hours. Saturday's liftoff is scheduled for 2:49 a.m. to sync up with a space station arrival the next day. Unlike cargo Dragon, plucked from orbit by the station's robot arm and guided to its berth, crew Dragon will dock on its own early Sunday morning. The three space station astronauts will enter the Dragon, unload the fresh supplies on board and then fill it with science samples and old equipment. The capsule will undock March 8 and, shortly after sunrise, parachute into the Atlantic, a couple hundred miles off the Florida coast.

HOT COMPETITION

Just because SpaceX is first off the pad doesn't mean it will launch astronauts before Boeing. SpaceX is shooting for a July crew launch, but that could slip depending on the results of the upcoming demo and a launch abort test this spring. Several items — parachutes and thrusters, among others — still need work and possibly redesign before certified for human use. Boeing is targeting an April test flight of its Starliner capsule without crew, and a launch with three astronauts no earlier than August. Whichever company delivers astronauts first wins a small U.S. flag left at the station by the last shuttle crew in 2011. NASA's Doug Hurley and Boeing's Christopher Ferguson — who both flew that final shuttle mission — will test drive the new commercial capsules. Hurley will ride the Dragon and Ferguson the Starliner. □

Paris Fashion Week: Chloe shows floral prints, ethnic motifs

By THOMAS ADAMSON

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — High-collared, fluid silhouettes teeming with detail: That's the recipe at Chloe, which showcased its latest winter collection at Paris Fashion Week Thursday.

Some highlights of the fall-winter 2019 collections on display:

CHLOE

Round shoulders were a key theme this season, alongside a diaphanous, tubular sleeve that subtly referenced the house's 70s DNA.

Designer Natacha Ramsay-Levi produced a diverse and saleable collection with rich design pickings — but failed to really light a spark.

Floral prints created a visual kinesis, an effect accentuated by ethnic motifs and tribal jewelry.

But pervading the 55 looks displayed in the morning show at Paris' Maison de Radio was a rather low-energy, grounded and sen-



Models wear creations as part of the Manish Arora ready to wear Fall-Winter 2019-2020 collection, that was presented in Paris, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

sible feel. High collars and statement on-trend lapels did away with the bust, intentionally un-sexy, and the footwear consisted of sturdy, equestrian-inspired boots with square heels.

Still, there were some beau-

tiful individual garments, such as an off-white knit sweater with sleeves attached by gold buttons at the elbow that captured a "sportswear meets aristocrat" vibe.

Illustrating the frenetic

pace of fashion week show schedules, guests rushed out so quickly at the end of the display that Ramsay-Levi was blocked from taking a bow in one of the main runway halls. She just smiled and laughed.

CHLOE'S FAREWELL POSTCARDS TO LAGERFELD

Couturier Karl Lagerfeld, who died earlier this month, exerted a giant influence on the global fashion industry. Designers including Dior's Maria Grazia Chiuri have peppered their collection notes with poignant tributes this week.

On Thursday, it was Chloe's turn to bid farewell to Lagerfeld, who was the house's longtime creative director from the '70s — a post that was somewhat overshadowed by his more famous tenure at Chanel.

Chloe praised the German-born designer's "incalculable genius" over 25 years with the house.

A wad of postcards was placed on each guest's seat, remembering Lagerfeld's most important moments with the brand in his own words. "I love dresses straight out of fairy tales — that are the color of the moon; that are as bright as the sun," one read. □

Back to his roots: Hockney landscapes adorn Van Gogh Museum

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A new exhibition at Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum highlights the influences of the tormented Dutch master on the later landscape works of one of the world's greatest living artists, David Hockney.

The exhibition "Hockney - Van Gogh: The Joy of Nature" opens Friday and runs through May 26. It features both artists' landscapes, juxtaposing paintings and drawings by the 19th century Dutchman with Hockney works ranging from small charcoal sketches and water colors to giant, wall-filling paintings, videos and iPad drawings.

"I've always found the world quite beautiful, looking at it, just looking," Hockney says in the exhibition's catalog. "And that's an important thing I share with Vincent van Gogh: We both really, really enjoy looking at the world."

Curator Edwin Becker compares Hockney's return from Los Angeles to the northern English county of Yorkshire to Van Gogh's move from Paris to southern France, saying their relocations helped both artists reconnect with nature.

Van Gogh found beauty in the landscapes of France — from freshly harvested fields to trees ablaze with blossom — even if the darkness of some paintings also betray the mental anguish he could not escape.

Hockney, after a long and productive period living and working in LA, returned to his roots and started closely studying the landscapes around him.

"In the fields and woods of East Yorkshire, he rediscovered again the seasons, the variety of color tones and tonalities, the subtle play of light and the ever-changing weather conditions," Becker said.

While the show demonstrates that Hockney has

been influenced by many artists — such as Henri Matisse, Edvard Munch and Meindert Hobbema — the similarities between Van Gogh and Hockney can be striking.

The pink and blue brush strokes that make up the swirling sky in Hockney's 2009 painting, "May Blossom on the Roman Road," echo Van Gogh, even the Dutchman's dark and brooding "Wheatfield with Crows."

"If we look at Hockney's landscape pictures, sketches, drawings, watercolors, oils we feel the heartbeat of Van Gogh," Becker said. He added that both artists share a passion for innovation — Van Gogh created his own distinctive style by drawing on movements such as impressionism and pointillism, while Hockney has embraced techniques and technology including iPads, video and photography.

Van Gogh's paintings, nor-



Employees of the Van Gogh Museum make last adjustments when mounting the 32-canvas painting by David Hockney titled "The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate" (East Yorkshire, 2011) prior to an exhibit in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

mally so striking, can seem a little overshadowed in the presence of some of Hockney's works. That's particularly the case with "The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate, East Yorkshire in 2011 (twenty eleven)," a huge oil painting on loan from the Pompidou Center in Paris that is made up of 32 canvasses and fills an entire wall.

That work, with its bold

colors and strong vertical lines, reflects Hockney's determination — like that of Van Gogh before him — to breathe new life into landscape painting.

"I knew landscape was seen as something you couldn't do today," Hockney says on the museum's website.

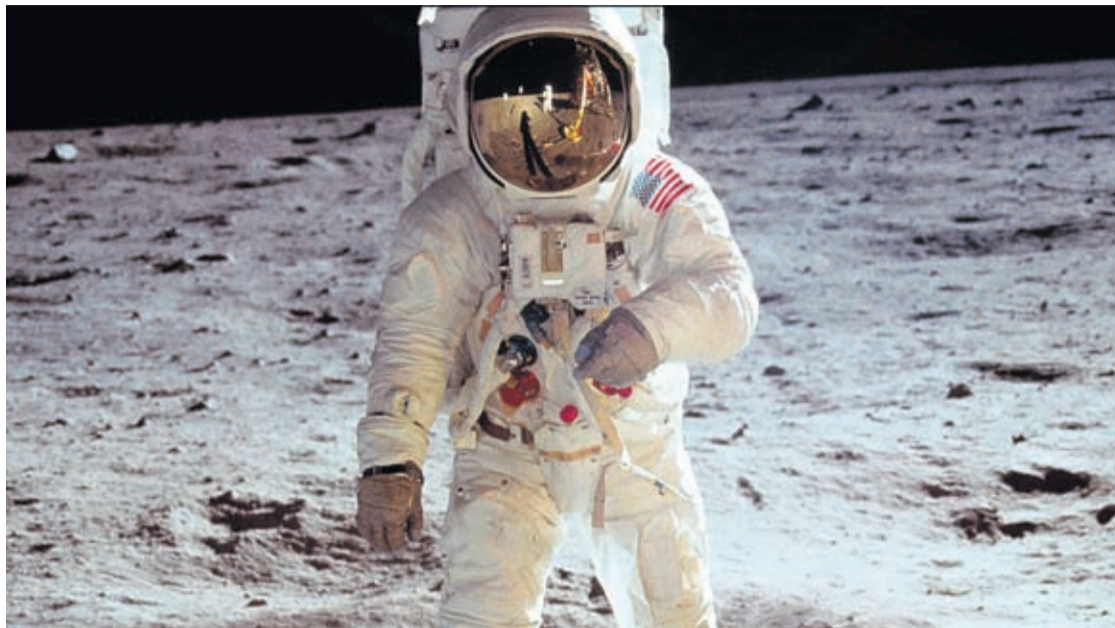
"Why? You can't be bored of nature, can you? And Van Gogh knew that." □

In 'Apollo 11,' the thrill of landing on the moon

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

The 1969 mission to the moon has been seen in many phases before but never with the shining, crystal-clear fullness of Todd Douglas Miller's extraordinary "Apollo 11," a documentary culled from archival footage and audio recordings that in heart-stopping, minute-by-minute detail, recaptures the propulsive force of man's most glorious feat, giving new resonance to those beautiful, headlong Mission Control words: "We Are Go."

Timed to the upcoming 50th anniversary of the lunar landing, "Apollo 11" was compiled partly from a previously forgotten trove of 70mm film that includes footage from the launch, the Cape Canaveral crowds watching outside J.C. Penny's and along motel balconies, and the astronauts' recovery. It features no talking heads or narration, just audio from some 11,000 hours of NASA audio recordings and, occasionally, the sonorous gravity of Walter Cronkite's



This image released by Neon/CNN Films shows a scene from the film "Apollo 11."

Associated Press

broadcasts. The clarity of the large-format and restored images is startling. So much of the imagery from the moon landing has by now flattened into iconography, but, here, the event is brought back to life. Miller starts on the cusp of launch as the enormous platform is moved by giant tracks toward the launch site. It could be a shot from "Star Wars" or any number of sci-

ence fictions the moon mission birthed. Later we see Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins in their suits before putting on their helmets, and it's like we've never seen their faces — confident, with an almost mischievous glint — so well. "Apollo 11" might not tell you anything you don't already know about the moon landing. But it will make you feel it, and see it, anew. Miller has con-

densed the eight-day expedition into an immersive thrill ride, from launch to return, that puts you in in the shuttle with the astronauts and in Mission Control's ear. It's the grandeur of Apollo 11 distilled down to its still jaw-dropping essence. Much of the emphasis is on how the drive to the moon was so much broader than the two astronauts who carried out John F. Kennedy's 1962 pledge. Kenne-

dy's words ("We choose to go the moon in this decade and do the other things not because they are easy, but because they are hard") hang over the movie with a kind of fervor and ambition that today sounds downright alien. Later, while the spacecraft is in mid-flight to the moon, news of Chappaquiddick and Ted Kennedy will play on NASA television sets while onlookers, drawn back to earth, momentarily gawk. But it's in the thousands who contributed to the mission that the magnitude of the effort comes through. Their faces are seen in montages and their voices are heard, again and again, on NASA radio: a multitude who at every significant turn confirms that their department is, indeed, "a go." We have, of course, been to the moon before at the movies. Most recently, there was Damien Chazelle's rigorous if overly brooding "First Man," which — despite its many fine attributes — looks all the more muted in comparison to "Apollo 11." □

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	<p>MAARTEN DANNENBERG TJEBO GERRITSMAN Verliefd Op Cuba DUTCH MON-SUN 6:25</p> <p>VIP MON-THU & SUN 4:35 9:25 FRI-SAT 4:35 9:25 11:50 NR</p>
	<p>ROSA SALAZAR CHRISTOPH WALTZ ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES CXC MON-THU 5:15 7:50 FRI 5:15 7:50 10:25 SAT 2:40 5:15 7:50 10:25 SUN 2:40 5:15 7:50</p> <p>VIP MON-THU & SUN 9:10 FRI-SAT 9:10 11:45 PG-13</p>
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	<p>TARAJI P. HENSON TRACY MORGAN WHAT MEN WANT WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-SUN 4:20 6:55 9:30 R</p>
	<p>JESSICA ROTHE ISRAEL BROUSSARD HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THU & SUN 9:25 FRI-SAT 9:35 11:50 PG-13</p>
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Lisa Gardner returns with a cracker in 'Never Tell'



This cover image released by Dutton shows "Never Tell," a novel by Lisa Gardner.

Associated Press

By **JEFF AYERS**
Associated Press
"Never Tell" by Lisa Gardner (Dutton).
What seems like a slam-dunk case turns into some-

thing mysterious in Gardner's latest featuring Boston Detective D.D. Warren. The police receive a report of shots fired inside a home, and when they arrive find a woman holding a gun and standing over a man's dead body. It is soon determined that the woman is Evie Carter, and her husband is the victim. Warren arrives on the scene and her initial investigation reveals a weird anomaly: the husband has three bullet holes, but his laptop has 12, making the contents unrecoverable. What makes even less sense is that Warren recognizes the woman from years earlier. Evie was one of her first cases when she joined the police force, which involved her accidentally shooting and killing her father. That case was corroborated by the

evidence and an eyewitness. Evie initially confesses to the crime of murdering her husband, but then claims that she came home to find her husband's body. She picked up the gun and shot the computer until the gun ran out of bullets. If her story is true, why did she feel the impulse to do something so strange? To make things more complicated for both the case and Warren, a woman named Flora Dane has some potentially damaging information. Dane was kidnapped for almost two years, and her rescue has compelled her to help the police. She tells Warren that the husband is someone she recognizes from a time when her kidnapper took her to a bar to try to sell her services. □

Outtakes: Regina King on white lies, directing and '227'

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Regina King — who is nominated for her first-ever Academy Award for her work in "If Beale Street Could Talk" — discusses sitting in the director's chair and following up on the promise she made to female filmmakers during her Golden Globes speech in outtakes from a recent interview with The Associated Press. Read the interview here .

LITTLE WHITE LIES

When R&B singer Jaheim asked Regina King to be the leading lady in a music video in 2010, she flexed her neat negotiating skills: If I'm in it, let me direct it!

There was just one problem — King had never written a video treatment before.

"(Jaheim) put me on the phone with the people from Atlantic (Records), so they were like, 'Have you ever written a treatment before?' And the tone in which they asked the question just said to me, if I have not, they're not going to be OK with this. So I was like, 'Sure,'" King recalled. "And I hate liars and I was being one in that moment, but I knew that I needed this and so I guess I won't say



This Feb. 13, 2019 photo shows actress Regina King, nominated for an Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in "If Beale Street Could Talk," posing for a portrait at Sofitel in New York.

Associated Press

lie, I was acting like I could. I was acting like I did."

She immediately called her friends in the industry like director Tim Story and writer-producer Dwayne Johnson-Cochran, who sent her treatments she could work off of.

The video for "Finding My Way Back" helped the song achieve success on radio and reached No. 12 on Bill-

board's R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart. The song, co-written by fellow R&B star Miguel (then unknown), earned two Grammy nominations. King went on to direct another music video — Kelly Price's Grammy-nominated "Not My Daddy" — giving her enough experience to then move on to TV. Her directing credits include episodes of "This Is Us," "In-

secure," "The Good Doctor," "Shameless," "Scandal" and more.

"When we were in Palm Springs (Spike Lee) was like, 'How many hours of TV have you directed?' I stopped and thought about it and kind of counted and told him and he was like, 'Oh you are ready for your film now,'" King said.

GOLDEN WORDS

Regina King, who pledged that anything she produces in the next two years will be made by 50 percent women during her Golden Globes speech last month, has a few words for the naysayers.

"I even read some Bloomberg article after I'd challenged myself with that saying how ridiculous it was for me to say that or impossible. For those of us that are hustlers and like challenges, that's all we need. 'Oh you think it's impossible? Watch me work,'" she said. "It feels like it's going to be difficult, but it's never felt impossible because I had examples right there with John Ridley and Damon Lindelof putting women in positions of power on their productions. And Ava DuVernay and what she did with 'Queen Sugar.'"

King was praised for using her speech to draw attention to the all-too-often back seats women take in Hollywood and beyond.

"Even though it wasn't quite planned ... I knew I was going to say something. But the spirit was just like, 'Say it!' You hear my voice, I was like, 'Oh God, I'm saying it. It's happening,'" she said. □

Fiancee helps Hayes Carll deliver his prettiest work

By STEVEN WINE

Associated Press

Hayes Carll, "What It Is" (Dualtone)

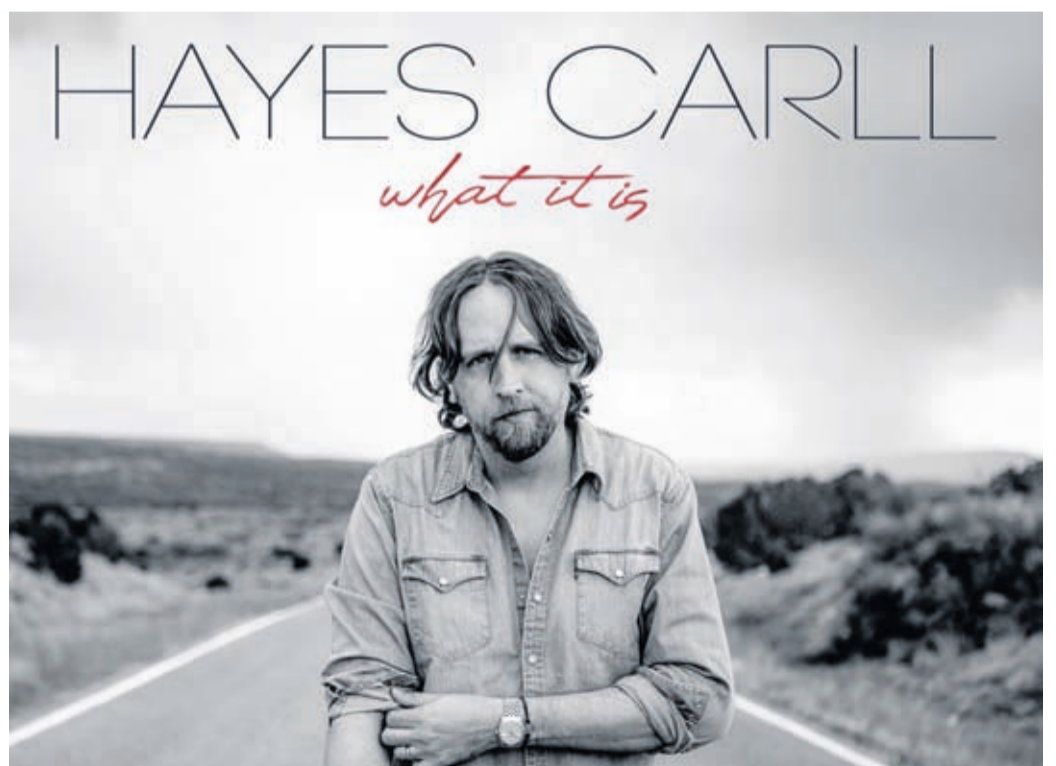
Dysfunctional relationships abound on Hayes Carll's new album, from the one-on-one wounds described in the opener "None'ya" to the cultural divide of "Fragile Men." Even so, there's a sunny lilt to the sardonic Texan's familiar warble on the title cut, and a sweetness to the 12-song set that suggests it benefited from a woman's touch.

Carll's fiancée, singer-songwriter Allison Moorer, co-wrote half of the material on "What It Is" and also co-produced the album. Perhaps she had a hand in the album's most moving moment — the surprising, cinematic swell of a string orchestra midway through "Be There," a lament on distrust.

Carll also uses strings elsewhere, and horns as well, broadening his palette to achieve a wide variety of musical styles — from the banjo shuffle of the title cut and the fiddle boogie of "Times Like These" to the boozy Stones-y romper "Beautiful Thing." There's even a flute on the closing pledge of devotion, the lovely "I Will Stay."

The common denominator is Carll's deft lyrical touch. He can deliver wry social commentary, such as on "Fragile Men" and "Wild Pointy Finger," without antagonizing anyone. And regarding domestic issues, he knows how to make the personal universal, which is why "Jesus and Elvis" becomes much more than just a song about a bar.

That's "What It Is" — Carll's prettiest album, and perhaps his best. □



This cover image released by Dualtone shows "What It Is," a new release by Hayes Carll. Associated Press

New Disney area to immerse parkgoers in a Star Wars story

By **JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The world of Star Wars is coming from a galaxy far, far away to become the largest single-themed land created in a Disney park.

Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge is an adventure through the grungy planet Batuu where guests can build their own droids and lightsabers, interact with aliens and climb into the cockpit of the massive Millennium Falcon, where you will discover your mission and engage in a dogfight with Tie Fighters. The sprawling 14-acre land is set on a remote world in the newest "Star Wars" trilogy — so don't expect appearances by Luke Skywalker or Darth Vader. But some familiar faces including Rey, Finn, Kylo Ren and fan-favorite Chewbacca will be a part of the adventure as visitors explore the immersive world.

Galaxy's Edge is set to open this summer at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California, then in the fall at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, Florida. The lands at both parks are nearly identical and offer a mix of trading outposts, a cantina and even a wooded area where Resistance fighters have set up camp. Entry is included with a park ticket, but it'll cost more for guests who want to create their own lightsaber or purchase their own droid modeled on R2-D2 or BB-8.

Walt Disney Parks and Resorts chairman Bob Chapek said guests inside Galaxy's Edge will have persistent interaction with Star Wars



This rendering released by Disney and Lucasfilm shows people on the planned Inside Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run attraction, part of Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.

Associated Press

elements, whether it's Stormtroopers barking orders or the up-tempo, swinging music of a grimy cantina that yes, serves Star Wars-themed alcohol.

"You will not think you're in a theme park," he said. "Every cast member will be in character, the food and beverage and language will be in story. The merchandise inside the shops won't be in boxes that say Disney on them. Everything is very, very immersive."

In a behind-the-scenes look, park officials took The Associated Press on a tour of Batuu, an uncharted region of lush trees and spires. The land is also filled with smugglers and traders hoping to avoid the First Order, the successor of the evil Galactic Empire.

Galaxy's Edge is still under construction, but its buildings, shops and main attractions are in place. Right now the focus is on "cos-

metics and making sure the equipment is working properly," said John Larena, executive creative director at Walt Disney Imagineering. Here are some of the land's key features:

MILLENNIUM FALCON: SMUGGLERS RUN

Selfie opportunities will be abundant inside and out of the "the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy." The spaceship is the exact replica of the ship from the films, measuring more than 100 feet long.

Inside the cockpit, a team of six people operate the spacecraft during an interactive experience that, just like the movies, that will get a little bumpy. An encounter with First Order fighters put guests in the role of pilots, gunners or flight engineers to ensure their mission is completed.

While others wait their turn, they will walk the halls of the Falcon or hangout in the area where R2-D2 played a round of the holographic chess-like game called Dejarik against Chewbacca in the original film.

RISE OF THE RESISTANCE

This is where it gets real. On a full-size starship, guests play as new Resistance recruits and go on a journey. A hologram image of Rey will appear with a message before guests board their ship and take off from Batuu and head into the orbit. But the starship runs into some trouble: It's intercepted by a nearby Star Destroyer. This sets up a

climactic battle against military members of the First Order, who will probably give you a piece of their mind.

"They'll bark at you," Larena said. "They might say 'Move along, move along. You're going into detention.'"

Resistance guests will be thrown into a detention cell where they could run up against Kylo Ren.

"You have to figure your way out of the ship," Larena said. "There's always a way out."

SAVI'S WORKSHOP

Even though Skywalker, Vader and Yoda won't show up in "Galaxy's Edge," their lightsabers will. Guests will be able to purchase their popular weapon or hand-build their own. Bring plenty of credits: the price for the hilt is around \$109 and the blade costs \$49 depending on the type.

Park officials say they understand guests want to enjoy their new lightsabers, but they ask that they remain stowed when on

attractions and around crowds for the safety of others.

DROID DEPOT

Who doesn't want their own personal R2 unit?

Guests — for an undisclosed cost — can either purchase a pre-built droid or build one in the colors of their choosing by picking pieces off a conveyor belt. They're not just pretty to look at. Park official says the droids will be controllable by guests.

TASTE OF STAR WARS

There's no such thing as chicken in "Galaxy's Edge." That's Tip Yip, and the cornbread that you might eat with it is blue, gravy is green and cauliflower is orange. Much of the food is plant based with dairy-free mash potatoes and vegan meatballs.

OGA'S CANTINA

While talkative DJ R-3X spins music, bartenders pour beverages.

The cantina will be the first location to serve alcohol to the general public in Disneyland's 60-plus year history. It's the place to come and unwind, but officials say it's also known to have some of the most disreputable characters in the galaxy.

And yes, droids are allowed.

PLAY DISNEY PARKS MOBILE APP

Galaxy's Edge is the first land within a Disney park designed to integrate with the app. It can help translate Star Wars languages and scan crates to discover contents within them. The app can also be used to interact with droids, media screens, door panels and drinking fountains. □



This rendering released by Disney and Lucasfilm shows people on the planned Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance attraction, part of Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.

Associated Press



This rendering released by Disney and Lucasfilm shows the planned Black Spire Outpost, a village on the planet of Batuu that will be part of a 14-acre expansion project called Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.

Associated Press